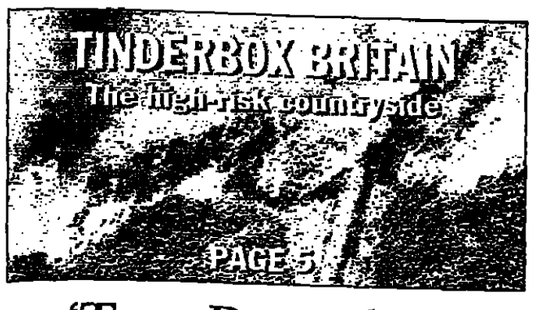
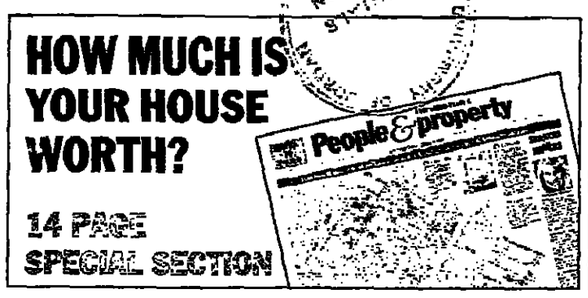
THE TIMES

35p

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'Tory Party deserves to be re-elected for its past achievements and future ambitions'

Major backs Hamilton's right to fight

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR strengthened his support for Neil Hamilton last night when he insisted that he would not bend to threats or sneers from people who wanted the former minister forced out of the election campaign.

The Prime Minster suggested that Mr Hamilton's right to stand for Parliament while protesting his innocence of the cash-for-questions charges against him had become a matter of principle that should be upheld irrespective of the damage it was doing to the Government.

Asked on *Sky News* whether it was worth losing the election for, Mr Major sidestepped the question, but said: "If you are accusing me of being too principled, I accept the charge.

"I do believe that when someone is facing charges, they have a right to defend themselves. The person accused vigorously declares their innocence, and I believe the right thing for them to do is go through the procedure and let it be determined in the proper way."

Mr Major's frustration at the sleaze issue had earlier boiled over when it overshadowed his attempt to launch a small business initiative in Birmingham. He accused Labour of going to any lengths to keep the spotlight off the real policy issues and insisted that he was not going to have "the whole of this election hijacked by one constituency".

Today, the fifth anniversary of his last election victory, Mr Major makes another attempt to lift the campaign by setting out his personal manifesto and declaring that Labour could not be trusted to carry on his reforms. Writing in *The Times*, Mr Major appears to accept that the time-for-a-change argument is the strongest card against him. "Eighteen years is a near lifetime in politics. Perhaps time to engender a mild curiosity: what would the other lot be like?" But he tackles the question head-on, asking people to consider whether they were better off than five years ago.

Mr Blair's "conversion of convenience" would not last, he says, adding that in less than a week the Labour manifesto had unravelled on issue after issue: devolution, the unions, privatisation and Europe. "If they change their ground so fast on issue like these, how can they expect anything in their manifesto to be taken on trust?"

ELECTION 97

> "One gets the impression that this is less a political party than a rather jolly cocktail party"
>
> *Charles Bremner with the Referendum Party, page 14*

> "The days when the Church of England was the Tory Party at prayer have long since passed"
>
> *Anthony Howard, page 13*

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The Prime Minister says he joined the Conservative Party because it offered people like him hope, opportunity and independence and because it showed trust and faith in people. Today, he writes, it deserves to be re-elected for its past achievements and future ambitions.

The Prime Minister receives some comfort today from an ICM poll for *The Guardian*, which shows that Labour's lead has narrowed to 12 points. It shows Labour support remaining static at 46 per cent, while the Tories have gone up two to 34 and the Liberal Democrats down two to 15 per cent.

But events in Mr Hamilton's Tatton constituency again blighted the Prime Minister's campaign yesterday. In Birmingham, he accused Labour of fighting in the gutter. He was infuriated by suggestions that he had personally contacted Mr Hamilton and that Baroness Thatcher had agreed to support the Tory campaign only on condition that Mr Major backed Mr Hamilton. The reports, he said, had come "straight from the Labour Lie Machine. It is completely untrue. I haven't spoken to Neil Hamilton. It is utterly untrue."

Mr Major appeared to be in no better spirits when pressed over a Church report criticising politicians' failure to tackle poverty. The report was well-intentioned: "But I disagree with the Church's judgment. They make a judgment on what they see. I invite them to look at what has happened to levels of unemployment in this country. I invite them to look at an economy producing more jobs."

PETER NICHOLLS



Martin Bell is confronted by Neil Hamilton and his wife Christine yesterday. "I am standing because a lot of people asked me to," he told them

Bell's first dispatch from the front line

BY RUSSELL JENKINS AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE Battle of Knutsford Heath lasted only a matter of minutes yesterday as an ambush left Martin Bell dodging the first enemy fire of his political career.

The war correspondent emerged from his temporary base at The Longview Hotel in Knutsford for his first press conference in the Tatton constituency, where he is challenging Neil Hamilton as the "anti-corruption candidate".

Mr Bell, who admitted he had not slept well, had hunkered down in the hotel's Cellar bar, his campaign HQ, and told anyone who would listen that he hoped this was the start of the shortest political career in the history of Parliament.

At his side was his friend and campaign supporter Colonel Bob Stewart, the former Commander-in-Chief of the UN forces in Central and Northern Bosnia.

"I'm usually *Sun* material," said Colonel Stewart, who is now with Hill & Knowlton, the public relations firm. "They call me bonking Bob," he added, referring to his love affair with a Swiss-born Red Cross worker, for whom he left his wife. As journalists waited on Knutsford Heath for Mr Bell to appear, Mr Hamilton walked up arm-in-arm with his wife Christine. "We are perfectly entitled to be here," said Mrs Hamilton. "We are voters in the constituency, unlike Mr Bell, who lives in Hampstead. Mr Bell's candidacy is a media stunt." Mr Hamilton nodded vigorously.

Mr Bell appeared moments later in his customary white suit, his face set in the battlezone grimace made familiar by a thousand television appearances from the front line.

He marched up to the couple, now ringed by the press, and told them how pleased he was to see them. "Some time I'd like to have a private chat with you away from this zoological circus. I have really felt for you.

"I was just saying to a few people who wanted to see me, I really want this to be a dignified campaign so that when it is over we can either congratulate you or commiserate."

Mr Hamilton clearly did not have a pleasant chat in mind. "What I want to know is whether you think I am guilty or innocent of any corruption? Whether you think it is reasonable for Peter Mandelson and Mr Prescott and others who have been endorsing your campaign to accuse me either directly or by inference of corruption?" Mr Bell replied that he did not want to judge guilt or innocence. That, he explained, would be counter-productive and "both campaigns would go down the tubes".

Mrs Hamilton, in orange jeans and multi-coloured cardigan, butted in: "Do you accept that a man is innocent until proved guilty? Do you accept that my husband is innocent?"

Mr Bell: "I am not facing an ambush here. I don't know. I am standing here because a lot of people have asked me to stand here. The

Continued on page 2, col 6

Scargill to stand against Howarth

Miners' leader Arthur Scargill confirmed last night that he would stand against Alan Howarth, the former Tory minister who defected to Labour. Mr Scargill will represent his Socialist Labour Party in the safe Labour seat of Newport East.

Tesco wins in profits battle

Tesco notched up another victory over Sainsbury's by overtaking it in group profits for the first time.

The annual pre-profits at Tesco rose to £750 million. Sainsbury's has said its 1996-97 profit will be between £640 and £650 million ..... Page 25

Canberra recalls her finest hour

The Duke of York and Baroness Thatcher joined dinner guests aboard *Canberra* to mark the 15th anniversary of the sailing of the Falklands Task Force ..... Page 2

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MPs demoted to hoi polloi

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

WITH a royal signature, a proclamation by London's town crier, and the stamp of the Great Seal of the Realm on a single sheet of paper, Parliament was dissolved yesterday and 649 MPs ceased to be Honourable Members.

At 1.50pm, MPs were stripped of their rights and rejoined the *hoi polloi* as the five-year Parliament came to an end. The now former MPs rushed to finish their final lunches at the Strangers' Restaurant, one of the few remaining open, before clearing their desks and returning to the election campaign trail. Although they were given until midnight last night to leave the precincts of the Palace of Westminster, they were demoted at the precise moment of dissolution.

Within minutes, Parliament's security office began invalidating their passes. "The Pass Office is pressing the button and wiping them off the face of the earth," one Westminster official said.

From this morning, the staff of the Serjeant at Arms will lock up MPs' offices, although those members who are standing down are given an extra week's grace to clear their desks. MPs' secretaries can no longer use House of Commons stationery or the free postage service, nor can MPs use the underground car park. Their telephones, faxes and computers have all been turned off. Although MPs cease to exist, ministers remain in Government until the election.

Peter Shore, the veteran former Labour minister who is retiring from Parliament, said: "It is a strange feeling. What strikes one is the immediate and abrupt withdrawal of the facilities."

One MP, when asked what it was like to be an ordinary member of the public, said: "I can now announce the name of my mistress and you chaps in the press won't be in the least bit interested."

New rules to cost butchers £20,000

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH new controls "from farm to fork" will cost Britain's 12,000 local butchers (up to £20,000 each in hygiene improvements. All shops handling fresh and cooked meats will require a special licence.

The controls, proposed by the report of the Pennington inquiry into the *E Coli* outbreaks in Scotland, were accepted as necessary yesterday by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary.

But the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health complained that earlier recommendations requiring separate staff and counters for raw and cooked meats had been watered down. And the Consumers' Association was disappointed that the report did not call for an independent food agency.

There is no direct censure in the report of Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, nor of his department's failure to pass to the inquiry team a report on *E Coli* risks in slaughterhouses compiled by the Meat Hygiene Service at the end of 1995.

Pennington report, page 6

The sun has got its hat on. So should you

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

AN UNSEASONAL crop of red noses and sore necks prompted the earliest sunburn warning from the Cancer Research Campaign yesterday.

And the Pollen Research Unit said that the warm weather meant that the miseries of hayfever were likely to set in at least three weeks earlier than usual.

After a week of brilliant sunshine, the cancer charity advised people to cover up to avoid the risk of skin cancer. A spokeswoman said: "We are issuing the warning earlier than ever because of the fine weather and the prediction of more to come."

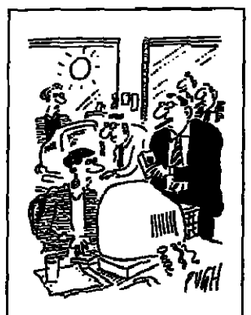
With the spring-like temperatures, many people had been tempted to sunbathe, wrongly believing that they could not burn. The London Weather Centre said the recommended maximum period in the sun without protection was 25 to 30 minutes for people with fair skins and 40-45 minutes for those with average skins.

The Cancer Research Campaign said that the risks of over-exposure were highest on the South Coast. "Weather experts predict that it will become more like Spain — arid in the summer months," the spokeswoman said.

Hayfever sufferers were meanwhile told to expect to start sneezing in the next couple of weeks, when the birch pollen season reaches its peak.

Dr Jean Emberlin, director of the Pollen Research Unit, said that up to 20 per cent of the population were allergic to birch pollen, and this year the count was expected to be high.

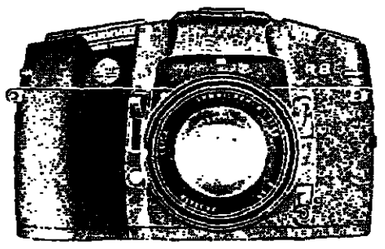
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"Does anyone object if we smoke indoors?"

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Agency is swamped by cases of wrongful conviction

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE huge number of alleged miscarriages of justice threatens to overwhelm the new organisation set up to deal with claims of wrongful conviction, its chairman said yesterday.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission estimates that it will examine 1,500 cases a year and will receive six cases a day to study. A report published yesterday said the "initial wave of cases threatens to submerge" the commission.

The report also discloses that implementing computer systems would be delayed for a "few months" and that case workers would not be in operation until June or July.

Sir Frederick Crawford, chairman of the commission, said: "We are expecting an avalanche of cases as we move into the next few months."

The commission is expected to have to deal with up to three million pages of material annually. Sir Frederick admitted: "We don't know if we can cope. No one does."

Sir Frederick brushed aside suggestions of any conflict of interest through his membership of the Freemasons. "If I was involved in any dealing with which there was a conflict of interest, I would withdraw," he said.

Sir Frederick said he did not know if the file on James Hanratty, hanged for the A6 murder in 1962, had arrived at the commission. "I haven't seen the files on Hanratty and I don't even know if they have arrived yet. When they come it will be a very extensive investigation."

Funded by an annual £3.5 million grant from Parliament, the organisation has a staff of 40 and is still recruiting.

Cases dealt with by the Commission will fall into three broad categories: old cases, such as Hanratty; those arising before the introduction of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, which rest on issues such as confession evidence and investigation procedure and those arising after the Act, which rest on issues such as evidence disclosure.



Baroness Thatcher signs an oil painting yesterday of the *Canberra* in San Carlos Bay. She was aboard for a commemorative dinner

End of the cruise for Canberra, white hope of the Falklands

Political and military leaders joined the Duke of York to pay tribute to a floating Falklands veteran, writes ***Alan Hamilton***

SHE was the great white whale, the biggest single sitting target of the entire Falklands war. But unlike some of the leading politicians of that conflict, the P&O liner *Canberra* has survived unscathed to honourable retirement.

Last night in her home port of Southampton the 36-year-old leviathan played host to a dinner for Baroness Thatcher, the Duke of York and many other familiar names from the last great British military adventure. The Prime Minister of the day was reunited with Lord Parkinson and Sir John Nott, two members of her war cabinet.

The Duke, then a front-line naval helicopter pilot, found himself among many of the military commanders who wrested victory 8,000 miles from home. Also there was Lord Carrington, who resigned as Foreign Secretary at the outset of the conflict.

On April 8 1982, Britain had just declared a 200-mile war zone around the islands and the *Canberra*, fitted at top speed with helicopter decks, was about to cast off from Southampton with nearly 2,000 troops from the Third Battalion the Parachute Regiment, and 42 Commando.

The dinner, hosted by Lord Sterling, the P&O chairman, to mark the 15th anniversary of the ship's departure for Ascension Island to join the task force, will be the last occasion of its kind. In September *Canberra*, still magnificent but now feeling her age, will be taken out of service.

Lady Thatcher who arrived stylishly with Sir Denis on the quayside in a black helicopter, instantly relived the days of nailbiting and ultimate glory she shared with the ship.

"We could not have won if the merchant navy and the *Canberra* had not taken down all the soldiers and equipment. There was not even time to paint her grey."

Among the military commanders who sat down to dine with their former Prime Minister were Lord Lewin, then chief of the defence staff, Lord Bramall, chief of the general staff, Rear Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward who commanded the task force, and Sir Jeremy Moore, commander of land forces who accepted the Argentinian surrender.

The 350 guests included many of the officers and crew of the five P&O ships requisitioned for the task force, led by Dennis Scott-Masson, 67, then captain of the liner.

He recalled: "Undoubtedly, the worst moment of our 94 days at sea was our day in San Carlos Bay, where we hoped to be protected from attack. We knew we were a very large, white object, the biggest thing in the Falklands. There was a great fear on board: it was difficult to believe they would not hit us."

"There was no direct attack on the *Canberra* but she still had the narrowest of escapes. As soon as she left San Carlos Bay, under naval escort, her mooring was taken by HMS *Antelope*, which within received a direct hit.

Her former captain has no doubt about the fate of his old ship. "She has always been a marvellous ship but, like the rest of us, she is mortal. She must be scrapped; you don't want anyone else mucking about with her."

The last word belongs to another dinner guest, Captain Christopher Burne, who was senior officer on board Canberra during her Falklands war service. "We heard at one stage that we were going to have to take all the troops from the QE2 because the *Canberra* was regarded as expendable. That did our morale a power of no good, I can tell you."

Teachers threaten to boycott grammar test

English teachers are threatening to boycott grammar, spelling and punctuation tests to be introduced for 14-year-olds this year. Members of the National Association for the Teaching of English say they are "banal and simplistic". Gabrielle Cliff Hodges, of the association, said yesterday that a vote at its annual conference last week, to support the principle of a boycott, was "intended as a signal to whoever is in power after the election ... that there would be considerable support for a boycott".

The tests, along with those for mental arithmetic, are to be piloted this summer and are intended to become compulsory next year. Five years ago, the association was in the forefront of opposition to the first National Curriculum tests. English teachers took the lead in agitation which prompted teaching unions to launch an all-out boycott. In a statement yesterday, the association said: "There is no evidence that the introduction of such a test would have a positive effect on teaching and learning about language. It would be likely to reduce potentially rich areas of language study to the level of the banal and simplistic."

£100m drug trial opens

A Briton accused of being Europe's biggest drug dealer goes on trial in Holland today accused of running a £100 million racket to flood Britain with heroin, cocaine, Ecstasy and hashish. Curtis Warren is one of seven Britons in the dock in The Hague for a two-day hearing. They are charged with trafficking in drugs and illegal possession of guns, hand grenades and CS gas canisters. A Colombian will also appear, charged with involvement in the smuggling. The court will hear how a six-month Anglo-Dutch police and Customs operation claimed to have broken one of Britain's largest drug rings. The accused were arrested last October.

Blackpool towers

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which attracts more than 17 million tourists a year, is the fourth most-visited attraction in Europe, beating the Eiffel Tower. The Golden Mile has become so popular with Eastern Europeans that traders are selling "Kiss Me Quick" hats translated into Russian. Disneyland is the continent's top spot, followed by Notre Dame and the Pompidou Centre, all in Paris. The British Museum came sixth in the Euromonitor survey.

Carroll pictures for sale



Four photographs of Alexandra "Xie" Kitchen, right, Lewis Carroll's favourite photographic model, are expected to fetch up to £10,000 at Sotheby's on May 2. Carroll entitles one of the pictures of the long-haired daughter of one of his greatest friends, the Rev G.W. Kitchin, *The Prettiest Doll in the World*. A photograph of her playing the violin is expected to fetch the highest price, £4,500.

Police raid nets £500,000

Detectives discovered £500,000 in cash hidden under a bed during a London-wide operation against burglars yesterday. The money was found during a raid on a house in Hounslow, west London — part of Operation Bumblebee —, and a man was arrested in connection with the illegal importation of alcohol. More than 2,000 officers targeted hundreds of addresses in the capital and, by 10am, there had been 360 arrests.

Phone 'trapped robber'

An Underground train robber was trapped when he answered a telephone pager he had stolen from a commuter, the Old Bailey was told. The policeman who called Leroy Fearon then dialled 1471 and found out his home number and address. Mr Fearon, 18, from Kilburn, north-west London, is alleged to have been one of a gang who terrorised passengers last spring. He denies robbery and firearm offences. The case continues.

Ace dealer dodges the $31m questions

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE City super-trader Shigeru "Sugar" Myojin retreated behind a wall of silence yesterday, as his $31 million (£19 million) package became the talk of the Square Mile. His employer, Salomon Brothers, blocked all requests for information, other than conceding privately that Mr Myojin does not drive his Ferrari to work. Neither does he arrive by bicycle.

Now 47, he moved to London in 1995 from Tokyo, where his enormous earnings regularly made him a target for door-stepping TV crews. Insiders say he is determined to shield his wife and family from newspaper scrutiny.

Mr Myojin is one of 23,146 Japanese nationals living and working in London, often favouring Japanese neighbourhoods. Many of the early arrivals settled in Hendon and Finchley in north London, which was inevitably dubbed "Little Tokyo". Many newcomers prefer Acton, west London, which has the benefits of a Japanese school. Their families often speak little English, and tend to stick to themselves, cushioned by a familiar network of Japanese restaurants and *karaoke* bars.

Mr Myojin's package — $520,000 in salary, plus a $10 million bonus, $2.06 million in shares, and $18.8 million in deferred payments — is virtually unprecedented for a Japanese national. Japanese companies have long favoured a system of "lifetime employment", which leans away from bonuses, company cars, and other Western-style perks. Instead, the employer takes care of elderly relatives, and provides other long-term benefits. The culture is changing, and big hitters such as Mr Myojin are opting for massive short-term gains.

There are 51,668 Japanese nationals living and working in the UK, according to the Japanese Information Centre. Their presence in the City is led by the Big Four Japanese securities houses Nikko, Nomura, Daiwa, and Yamaichi.

Front line dispatch is first for Bell

Continued from page 1

impetus comes from local people. Let them choose between us."

Mr Hamilton: "What I would like to say then is, are you prepared to give me the benefit of the doubt on the allegations that have been made against me?"

Mr Bell: "Absolutely, absolutely ... I have no problems with that."

Mr Hamilton: "That's all that I wanted, because in this country a man is innocent until proved guilty."

Mr Hamilton claimed a moral victory. He said he was glad Mr Bell had conceded that he was innocent and the couple walked off towards Knutsford looking pleased with the outcome of their shock strategy.

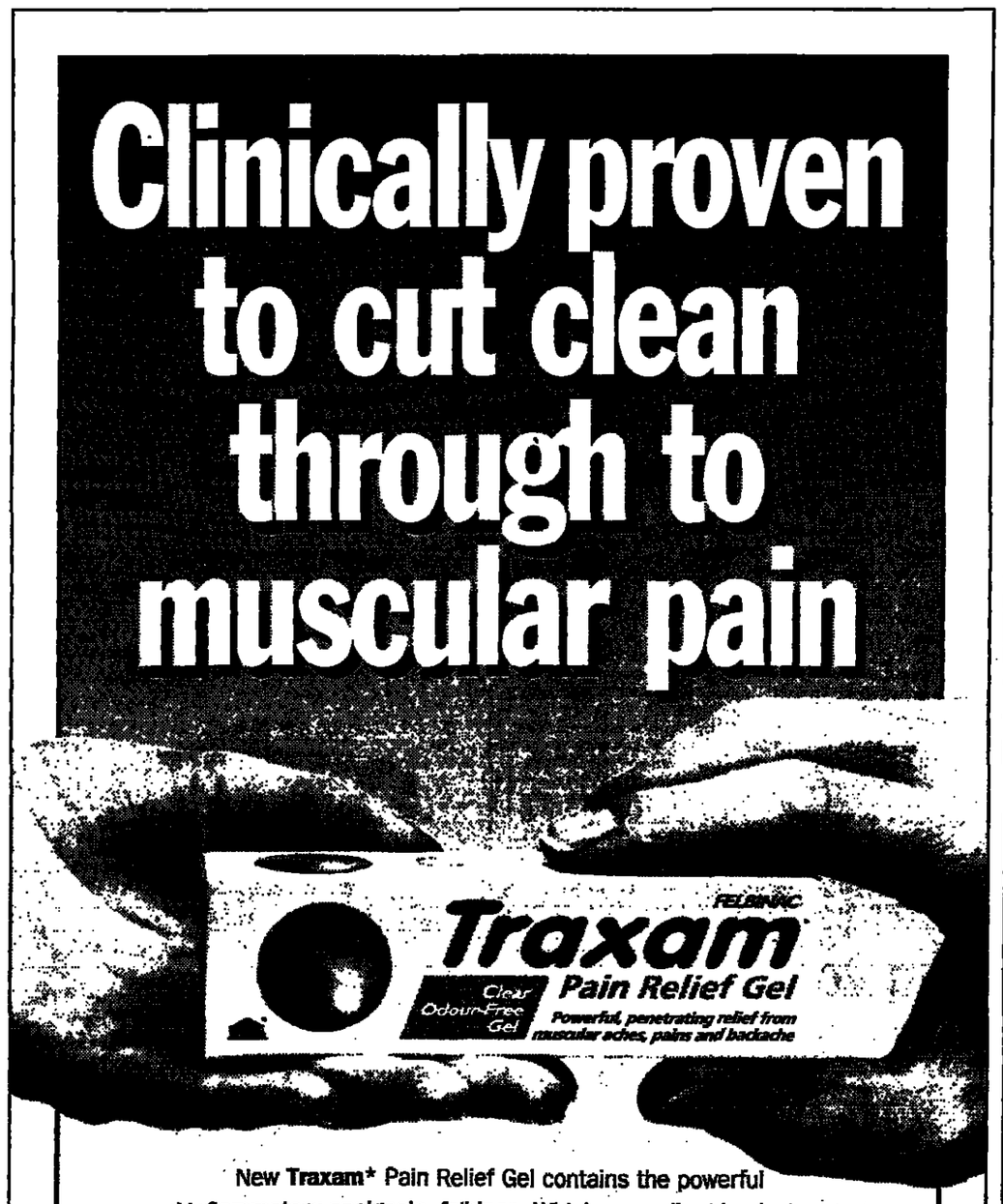
Mr Bell, looking taken aback, joked: "I knew I had made my biggest mistake when I heard Mrs Hamilton say that I should bring my flak jacket with me."

Later in the day, it became clear that the encounter had clearly rankled Mr Bell. The once reluctant candidate said his sights were now set on becoming MP for Tatton. "After this morning I really have the personal motivation to see things through. We are really going to do something here.

"I thought it was going to be the shortest electoral campaign on record. I now know I am going to be your next MP. I am going to be the best member of Parliament you have ever had."

He later told a well-wisher: "I want to get him out. I really do."

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High-flying union official grounded after hitting rival

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

BRITAIN's best paid union official has been dismissed for assaulting a member of a rival organisation who was taunting him about his luxurious lifestyle.

Mike Coleman, a senior steward with British Airways, allegedly spat at, then punched, another steward from a breakaway union in BA's main crew reporting area. Mr Coleman earns more than £70,000 a year from his job as branch secretary of the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association 2000 plus £32,000 working on BA's short haul operations and a daily allowance worth around £20,000 a year when he is on union business.

He lives in a luxurious home complete with swimming pool and snooker table in Hampton, southwest London and sends his children to public school. Details of his earnings became public as the trades union "watchdog", the Certification Office, began an examination into allegations of financial irregularity in BASSA 2000 mainly involving another official and going back at least five years. Last month the Certification Office notified Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, that there was "no evidence of a significant issue of financial corruption".


Coleman: union official sacked for public brawl

There was no suggestion that Mr Coleman had been involved in financial malpractice. But they said there was evidence of "extremely bad administration, weak financial controls and non-implementation of the union's own rules regarding the control of branch finances", and ordered further investigations to take place. However, when Dave Fallon, another BA steward who belongs to the rival Cabin Crew 89 union which broke away from BASSA eight years ago, waved copies of a report into Mr Coleman's earnings in the Compass Centre at Heathrow, the BASSA official flew into a rage and allegedly spat at and then punched Mr Fallon.

He was watched by "dozens" of crew, including pilots, many of whom gave statements to an inquiry. Mr Coleman was first suspended then formally dismissed in January. He appealed and after two further internal investigations the dismissal was upheld, of which he was informed on Friday.

British Airways last night confirmed that Mr Coleman had been dismissed. It said a disciplinary inquiry found that he had assaulted another BA employee: "Physical assault is construed as gross misconduct for which dismissal is the appropriate sanction."

The Transport and General Workers' Union said last night that the matter was "still subject to various legal actions" and it could not comment. Last night Mr Coleman denied that he was making £100,000 a year and said he was "lucky to earn half that". He added that he did not touch Mr Fallon and that the BA case was "outrageous".

The two unions have been rivals since Cabin Crew 89, set up with the help of the pilots' union Balpa to represent long haul cabin crew, broke away from BASSA. BASSA has around 8,500 members and Cabin Crew 89 has 3,500.Jim Welsh, who became general secretary of the breakaway group, was awarded £100,000 in damages after a newsletter accused him of misusing TGWU funds to set up Cabin Crew 89.


Taunts about Mr Coleman's luxury house in south London and his £120,000 annual pay led to assault



TWO golfers, Suzi Toft, left, and Jill Dyke, playing against each other in a four-ball competition, both shot holes-in-one at the same hole. The pair, playing at Trentham golf course, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, looked on amazed when their balls dropped into the 116-yard fourth hole within seconds of each other last Tuesday. The two were competing against each other in the four-ball with their friends Anna Bullock and Nancy Lane when the feat occurred. Mrs Dyke, 60, who has been playing golf for 20 years, said: "Suzi went first, put the ball on the green and it ran down to the flag and dropped in. I then saw my ball go in. We just couldn't believe it, we jumped around a lot, it was quite exciting." The group then returned to their game, with Mrs Dyke, who has a ten handicap, and her partner going on to win. The bookmakers Ladbroke's said yesterday that the odds on such an achievement by two amateur golfers would be 100 million to 1.

It's a hole in one — twice

Pavement rebels mount barricade

By Daniel McGrory

MIDDLE-CLASS residents of Royal Tunbridge Wells manned a barricade yesterday to oppose the removal of their 19th-century red-brick pavement for use in a more upmarket part of the borough.

Families brought out their picnic tables, confronted police and heckled workmen. They sang Sixties protest songs as they gathered behind the patio furniture that comprised their front line in Windmill Street. They are upset that their bricks are being hijacked to gentrify the Pantiles, two miles away, which they say already enjoys generous handouts from the council.

Local officials pointed out that the Pantiles is the site of the original spa in Tunbridge Wells and is deemed a conservation area. They added that it is the borough's main money-spinner as a tourist attraction. The street is cluttered with antique markets, coffee shops and pubs while some of the borough's most expensive housing fans out behind the Pantiles.

Mark Southon, a resident of Windmill Street, was defiant. He said: "We will occupy the street day and night to stop the council plundering our heritage. Direct action is all that is left for us. The council thinks everyone in Royal Tunbridge Wells is too meek and mild to get involved in demonstrations but they are also telling us we are not posh enough for these pavements. They want to slap down black tarmac. They have turned us into militants."

He aded: "This is a little part of England which wants to remain pleasant and we are not going to take being pushed around hence you are witnessing pavement power."

Stephanie Flynn, another member of the Windmill Street rebellion, said: "We know their plan is to use our path to smarten up a pedestrian walkway from where the tourist coaches stop. Why should we be robbed?" She knew of six other middle-class streets that she said the council planned to pillage.

The rebels are hoping that by today the protest will have spread.

The council, surprised by the residents' action, held hurried meetings to consider how to defuse the rebellion but pointed out that it would cost twice as much to rebuild their pavement with bricks than tarmacadam.

The Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate, Tony Clayton, turned up at Windmill Street before breakfast to lend his support and conceded that his campaign was not being helped by the council's attitude over the red bricks.

Rival election candidates have pledged to take their place on the front line at Windmill Street today.

Tory peer's son 'milked clients of £630,000'

By Paul Wilkinson

THE solicitor son of a former Tory party vice-chairman used hundreds of thousands of pounds of clients' money to finance his gambling habit and to prop up a failing fish and chip business, a court was told yesterday.

Simon Kaberry, the third son of Lord Kaberry of Adel, who was seriously injured in the IRA bomb attack on the Carlton Club in London in 1990 and died the following year, pleaded not guilty at Newcastle Crown Court to stealing £630,174 of clients' money. He also denied three charges of false accounting and one of deception between September 1992 and January 1994.

The court had been told that Mr Kaberry was suspended by the Law Society and later allegedly confessed to police that he had been "robbing Peter to pay Paul". David Hatton, QC, for the prosecution, said: "Very frequently, both Peter and Paul were being robbed and, by and large, neither were being paid their dues."

Mr Kaberry, 49, of Leeds, was alleged to have got into financial difficulties in the late 1980s. After his arrest in March 1994, the court heard, he told police that he decided the only solution would be to win huge amounts from betting on horse racing. He also admitted "sitting on" his brother's £245,000 mortgage in an effort to make his accounts add up.

In a lengthy confession to police he said: "Everything I have touched has turned to disaster. I have created a horrible mess which I could not face or overcome. I have simply tried to windmill everyone's money. I have no nest egg, I live in a tip and have not been on holiday. There is no woman in my life I have spent it on. I started gambling to try to pay off the debts."

The trial continues.

Wedgwood Museum's finest vases are stolen

By Richard Duce

AUCTION houses in Britain and America were alerted yesterday to the theft of rare vases from the Wedgwood Museum in Staffordshire.

The thieves picked out the three most valuable pieces in the Victorian section of the museum, leading to the theory that they were stolen to order. The vases are said to be worth a total of £10,000.

Security at the museum is being reviewed following the theft, which happened soon after it opened its doors last Saturday.

A glass cabinet containing the three pieces of enamelled Parian ware dating from 1860 was forced open. It is unclear whether the cabinet alarm failed to go off or had been disabled. The thieves ignored the other 150 items on show at the museum at Barlaston, near Stoke-on-Trent, which is visited by 200,000 people a year.

The company said yesterday that it was offering a substantial reward for the recovery of the vases. Two are decribed as blue "Barber" bottles which stand almost a foot tall and the third, in green, is two inches shorter.

Clare Elsby, of Wedgwood, said: "These pieces are particularly beautiful examples of Victorian ware. The thieves appear to have known what they were doing."

Husband laced tea with poison, wife tells court

By Tim Jones

A WOMAN became suspicious when her normally "mean and obsessive" husband began bringing her tea in bed, a court was told yesterday. Bill Down even offered his wife Linda a second cup and took over the cooking, the jury was told.

Down, described as a woman hater, became nice, pleasant and thoughtful, said Geraldine Chapman, for the prosecution. But the tea and the food was laced with rat poison, she alleged.

Mrs Down, who had been married for 27 years, started to notice a strange smell in her tea. Northampton Crown Court was told. She began pouring it away, keeping the dregs in jam jars which she hid. After her husband started cooking she became ill. Mrs Chapman said: "He hated women. In fact this may have had something to do with his general attitude towards his marriage."

She said that after one incident Mrs Down searched a kitchen cupboard and found a jar which contained putrid smelling liquid. Mrs Down, who works part time with special needs children, told the court she became "very frightened" when it dawned on her her husband was trying to poison her.

She said: "I was becoming more frightened. When he started bringing two cups up I kept a jam jar upstairs and tipped the stuff into it when he was in the bathdroom. He saw I had drunk it and looked into the cup and asked if I wanted another cup.

"I was trying to act normal so I said that would be nice and tipped that away after he had gone to work."

Asked how her husband was behaving, Mrs Down said: "A lot of the time he was really nice, really kind and thoughtful." Asked if that was unusual she said: "Yes, that made me really wary. It put me on alert."

Mrs Down, of Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, added: "He never got on with his mum. He did not like her. I think over the years he transferred that dislike to me."

Last August, the court heard, she took her samples to the police for analysis. They hid a surveillance camera in the house and arrested her husband after watching him take the rat poison into the kitchen before making the morning tea.

Down, 50, denies four charges of administering poison with intent to endanger his wife's life or cause her grievous bodily harm. He also denies an alternative charge of administering poison with intent to injure, aggrieve or annoy. The case continues.

Two old friends have more in common after sharing kidneys

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

TWO women selected for kidney transplants from the same donor on the same day discovered they had been childhood school friends 20 years earlier.

Teresa Minter and Denise Cullen, who were best friends at St Francis primary school in Peckham, south London, in the 1970s, found themselves in neighbouring hospital beds, having been diagnosed with the same illness of the same seriousness, with the same blood group and tissue type which made them suitable for transplant from the same donor.

The women, both 29, underwent their operations at Guy's hospital in January. Geoffrey Koffman, the transplant surgeon who carried out the operation, said: "They both had kidney problems we couldn't cure and both ended up on dialysis. There are seven million people in this region but we only do 100 transplants a year."

Teresa Minter began having kidney problems when she was 17 but did not suffer complete failure until ten years later. She had one transplant, which failed, and had to go back on dialysis for a year before a second chance was offered in January. Denise Cullen did not know her kidneys were failing until 18 months ago. Mr Koffman said: "By then her kidneys were virtually finished. She was on dialysis for a year before the chance of a transplant came up." Both women have been diagnosed with nephritis (inflammation of the tissues).

Teresa Minter, who is married and lives in Norwood, south London, said: "It was an incredible moment. The chance of having a new kidney was fantastic in itself but now I have got a new best friend all over again. When we were children we were inseparable."

Neither woman knows the name of the donor. Both have left hospital and there are no signs of their new organs being rejected.



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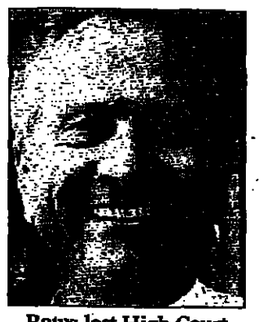
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Roux faces £400,000 tax bill for abuse of pension rights

By Kathryn Knight and Anne Ashworth



Roux lost High Court bid for judicial review

THE restaurateur Michel Roux faces a £400,000 tax bill after an unsuccessful High Court challenge over his pension arrangements.

M Roux, 61, who runs the acclaimed Waterside Inn, had claimed that the Inland Revenue acted unreasonably by imposing a heavy tax penalty on his pension when £900,000 from his company scheme was transferred into a specially created new fund. The Revenue considered this manoeuvre to be tax avoidance.

Lawyers for M Roux said that the Inland Revenue had overreacted by removing official approval from his original scheme, of which his wife Robyn was also a member, and assessing the cash that had been invested in it for tax at the rate of 40 per cent. Mr Justice Tucker said yesterday that the Inland Revenue was entitled to see M Roux's attempts to avoid tax as an "abuse of the system".

During a three-day hearing last month, Andrew Thornhill, QC, for M Roux, said the new pension fund had been a legitimate arrangement allowing M Roux to avoid having to buy an annuity. Normally when schemes are wound up, buying an annuity is the only option open to scheme members. An annuity is an investment that pays an income for life. But annuity deals can be unfavourable when interest rates are low, as at the moment.

Mr Thornhill said the Inland Revenue would be unfairly penalising M Roux's wife because she had had no knowledge of the new scheme being set up but would find her £300,000 pension fund savings liable to tax as well.

Rejecting M Roux's application for judicial review, Mr Justice Tucker said: "Whether the tax-avoidance scheme worked or not, the Revenue was justified in withdrawing approval for the old scheme."

After the hearing, Paul Baxendale-Walker, a tax solicitor consulted by M Roux's legal team, said: "This judgment contains some extraordinary and novel proposals on tax and pensions legislation. There is no doubt that there will be an appeal."

John Hinton, assistant director of the Inland Revenue's savings and investment division, said similar cases of tax avoidance were being investigated. "The judgment vindicates the action we took on this."

Generous tax breaks are given to encourage individuals to invest in pensions to provide for their old age but the Inland Revenue is ever watchful to ensure that this relief is not abused.

Recently the Revenue has acted over certain types of scheme where individuals have extracted cash from pension funds not with the aim of using the money for their retirement. In M Roux's case, the Inland Revenue found that the scheme had been badly managed and withdrew its approval, which meant that the fund had to pay 40 per cent tax.

M Roux's advisers tried to pre-empt the withdrawal of the approval by transferring the money to another scheme.

Robin Ellison, head of pensions at Eversheds, the solicitors, said: "The Inland Revenue has been watching these smaller schemes very carefully and is quite rightly acting where it sees any abuse. Cases like this are extremely rare and certainly do not affect members of conventional pension schemes."



Stephen Cyster with his three surviving children, Sarah, Thomas and Ben

Father haunted by memory of sons drowned on fishing trip

By Lin Jenkins

THE father of two boys who drowned on a fishing trip described yesterday the agony of living with the knowledge that one had given up his life to save him.

Stephen Cyster was given a lifejacket by his son Paul, 18, as they struggled to survive in the Bristol Channel after their boat sank in January. Since then he has been haunted by the image of Paul swimming away with the parting words "I love you, dad".

The teenager's body was recovered on Good Friday in the River Avon beneath Clifton suspension bridge. The body of his brother David, 10, was found on the banks of the Severn, 11 days after the accident.

Mr Cyster said that losing two sons had brought him to the brink of suicide. He was treated in hospital for hypothermia when rescued, and then spent three weeks in a psychiatric unit receiving treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder.

His distress was compounded last week by the arrival of a Christmas card handmade by David, postmarked December 2. Only the needs of his other children, Sarah, 8, Ben, 3, and Thomas, 2, had given him the strength to live, he said.

"Paul made the ultimate sacrifice: he had the lifejacket but he gave it to me. I have contemplated suicide since, but then Paul's sacrifice would have been meaningless," Mr Cyster, 40, said.

"I would swap places with either or both of my boys if it was possible. Kids are the most precious thing in the world. You don't realise that until you lose them."

Mr Cyster, of Sea Mills, Bristol, and his friend Dave Sperring took the two boys into the Bristol Channel in an 18ft cabin cruiser on January 12. David had been urging his father for weeks to take him on his first fishing trip.

They attempted to anchor near Portishead pier for a final 30 minutes' fishing, but the anchor snagged in submerged rocks and the boat capsized on the rapidly rising tide.

"It was all so fast, it happened in seconds. I was in the water, Paul came up to me. I was drowning, I was going down. He was shaking the hell out of me and shouting.

"We were both holding on to the lifejacket. He gave it to me. If I had known what he was going to do I would not have let him. I heard Paul shout 'I love you, dad' and he swam away.

"The temperature of the water was freezing, but I felt like I was on fire. It was terrifying." He was kept awake by shouting from Mr Sperring. Thirty minutes later they were rescued by a passing boat. "I felt like I was dying. It was like someone was walking around a house switching the lights off," said Mr Cyster, who is unemployed.



David Cyster: was on his first fishing trip



Paul Cyster: handed lifejacket to his father

Mr Sperring, 59, said afterwards: "I was swearing at Steve, calling him every name under the sun to stop him losing consciousness. All I can surmise is that Paul tried to swim to shore. If it had been the summer and not so cold, he might have made it."

Mr Cyster's wife Tracey, 33, said she had been reduced to tears by the arrival of the card and the fact that Paul would never see it. "This was the first card David had ever sent. I will always cherish it. I was really upset and angry because Paul could not see it and we can't say thank you to David because he is not here."

The card, which has a picture of a goat, was made by David at a Sunday club meeting at his local church. It had the message "To Mum, Dad, Tom, Ben, Sarah and Sparky Jow and Pool [Paul]. Have a good time. Happy Christmas. Love from David."

Mrs Cyster said that she had left the card unopened for some time after it arrived, unable to bring herself to look at the message.

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U7/10

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spice Girls sell 10m copies of first album

The Spice Girls have sold their ten millionth album. Virgin Records yesterday announced sales of 10,185,000 copies of *Spice* in five months.

A Virgin spokesman said: "It is incredible. Our projected UK sales were about 300,000 and the general feeling was that domestic pop acts do not travel particularly well."

The group's debut has grossed about £102 million, putting it among the music industry's most successful releases. Oasis's *(What's The Story) Morning Glory?* has sold 13 million copies worldwide since October 1995. The Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon* from 1973 holds the British album record with sales of 28 million.

Boy rape charge

An 11-year-old boy charged with raping a boy aged 12 is due to appear at Nottingham Crown Court for a pre-trial hearing next week. Police said that the alleged attack took place in the city last October when the accused was aged ten. He is also charged with robbery.

Murder remand

A man was charged with murdering and raping Louise Smith, 18, of Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire, after a disco on Christmas Eve, 1995. David Frost, 21, of Yate, was remanded in custody for a week.

Cargo ship sinks

The 3,000-ton cargo ship *Cita*, which ran aground in the Isles of Scilly last month with the loss of 200 containers, has sunk. Tourism officials said that virtually all the 90 tonnes of oil on board was removed before she went down.

Rods save lives

A father and son saved themselves after being trapped by the tide in Carmarthen Bay by sticking their 9ft fishing rods into a sandbank and clinging on. Hank Vandorn and his son Henry, 17, were rescued after two hours.

Cancer child dies

Andrew Morris, 8, died in a swimming pool while on a holiday to prepare him for cancer treatment. Andrew, from Southampton, was swimming with his mother at Center Parcs at Warminster, Wiltshire.

Animal heaven

A vicar hit a parishioner's pet donkey and killed it while driving from his church in Ashford Hill, Hampshire. The Rev Bernard Marshall, 61, said: "I was fairly prayerful afterwards. I hope St Francis is looking after her."

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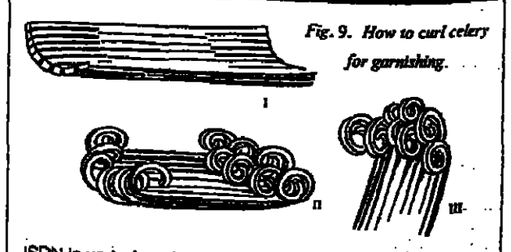


Fig. 9. How to curl celery for garnishing.

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Shortage of rain puts heathlands at risk from arsonists

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

THOUSANDS of acres of Britain's remaining heathlands are at risk from fire as the dry conditions make dead gorse and heather vulnerable to arsonists and careless visitors.

Officials at the Council for National Parks, which represents areas such as Dartmoor, the Peak District and Brecon Beacons national parks, called yesterday for more sophisticated firefighting techniques.

Yesterday police arrested a 61-year-old local man after a fire devastated part of Dartmoor. He has been released on bail. The blaze turned about 350 acres of heathland, which was about to be designated part of a National Nature Reserve, into what police called a "lunar landscape".

Fire crews also yesterday tackled grass and gorse fires in Delamere Forest, near Helsby, Cheshire, and at Scarborough, North Yorkshire. They urged children to stop playing with matches during the dry conditions amid fears that the scale of grass, heath and forest fires in 1997 could outstrip 1995.

During that year accidental and deliberate outdoor fires rose by 54 per cent. This year soil moisture levels are running low, especially in southern and eastern England, after exceptionally dry conditions. Rivers, lakes and ground aquifers are all also below seasonal averages.

After the Dartmoor fire, Phil Page, an English Nature warden, said a rare colony of Dartford warblers had been lost as had a colony of rare High Brown fritillary butterflies. Plants such as sundews and several types of orchid were hit. The area, known as Trendlebere Down, is unlikely to recover for 20 years.

Mr Page said: "We desperately need rain. We have had no flush of new growth. We have a mat of dead vegetation which is highly inflammable and the ground is tinder dry."

Experts consider limited burning, carried out by landowners, helps to improve heather growth. But uncontrolled fires devastate cover for threatened species such as sand lizards, natterjack toads and smooth snakes, making them vulnerable to predators. Plants which normally survive heath fires find it impossible to exist when the land is repeatedly burnt.



Mr Page said all the heaths in southwest England were at risk because of the drought, including Dartmoor, Exmoor, Bodmin Moor, the Lizard peninsula and the east Devon commons inland from Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton.

Andrew Nicholson of English Nature in Dorset said that county's heathlands were also at risk. Last year those near urban areas were worst hit by fires. About a quarter of Canford Heath, near Poole, has been devastated by a fire blamed on bored children playing with matches.

English Nature, the government's wildlife adviser, is also concerned about the wildlife and heaths around the New Forest in Hampshire, the Surrey heaths stretching between Chobham and Frensham, and Brecklands, an internationally important heathland on the Suffolk-Norfolk borders.

Steve Berry, of English Nature's Surrey team, said the county's heaths supported rare populations of dragonflies, including the white-faced darter, all of which are vulnerable to fire damage.

Bill Gurnett, head ranger at Exmoor National Park, said yesterday that improved firefighting measures were essential. He said that in Australia fire fighters used foaming technologies to increase the amount of water available when tackling blazes in remote areas. They had well-equipped, all-terrain fire engines able to move quickly in difficult countryside.

In Spain and France aircraft capable of scooping water from lakes are used for firefighting. In contrast, most of Britain's beauty spots are staffed by voluntary fire wardens trained in setting up fire breaks and backed by water bowsers.

A spokesman for English Nature, which administers the network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, said: "We can deal with small fires, and thankfully incidents of the scale of the Dartmoor fire are still rare. But this could become an increasing problem that the environmental organisations need to start addressing."

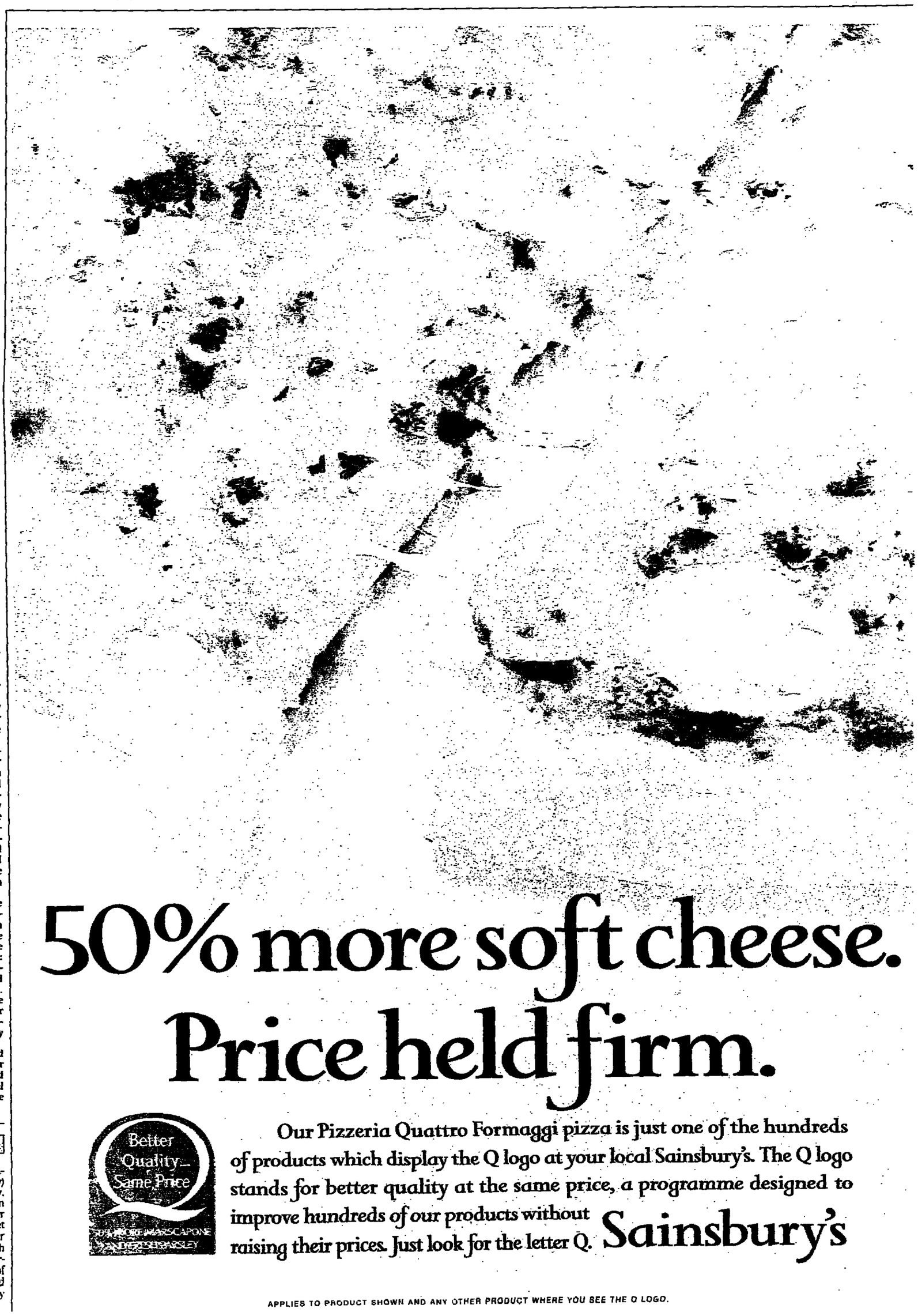
Leading article, Letters, page 21



Dartmoor gutted by fire: about 350 acres were reduced this week to what police called a "lunar landscape"



He destroyed England's World Cup plans with a single strike. Now he is the most wanted man in British football.
Brian Glanville meets Gianfranco Zola



Stalker jailed for harassing ex-lover

By Audrey Magee

A PRIMARY SCHOOL teacher sobbed in court yesterday as the ex-boyfriend who stalked her after they broke up was jailed for two years. Christopher McEwen, 37, tormented Trudy Powell, 27, by phoning her more than 130 times in a single month and twice broke into her home.

During the nine-month stalking campaign, Miss Powell once found McEwen hiding behind her bedroom door as she discussed security with a policeman.

Passing sentence at Winchester Crown Court, Assistant Recorder Gavin Chalmers told McEwen that he had shown "no respect for her [Miss Powell's] privacy or her feelings."

McEwen, of Bradfield, near Reading, Berkshire, admitted causing actual bodily harm. He became obsessed with Miss Powell when their three-year relationship ended. They had lived together and he found the break-up difficult to accept. He was arrested several times around her home.

Christopher Parker, for the prosecution, said Miss Powell, of Bordon, Hampshire, had became paranoid, suffered headaches and disturbed sleep. She consulted a psychiatrist, was tearful and constantly looking over her shoulder. He said: "She changed from a normally bubbly outgoing personality into someone suffering from depressive symptoms."

Simon Carr, for the defence, said McEwen had wanted to talk to Miss Powell about the relationship and his property, which he had tried to retrieve. But Miss Powell found his approaches threatening.

Funerals watchdog condemns services

By Sara McConnell

A WOMAN whose husband's ashes were lost by a funeral company has been awarded £2,650 for her distress, the highest compensation payment by the Funeral Ombudsman.

Professor Geoffrey Woodroffe, the ombudsman, said three payments of more than £1,000 had been made. In one case a couple were awarded £1,600 when their baby's body was left in the funeral parlour instead of being taken to the crematorium.

Publishing his annual report yesterday, Professor Woodroffe expressed concern that higher payments could be a sign of further deterioration in the service offered by funeral directors. While the number of complaints remained about the same, compensation payments had increased and exceeded £1,000 for the first time. The average payment was £814 in the seven cases upheld.

About three quarters of the complaints related to cremations, the most common form of funeral. Problems with the disposal of ashes headed the list. Professor Woodroffe said: "Sometimes ashes are scattered when the family wished them to be retained for burial. Sometimes burial takes place without the funeral director notifying the family. Occasionally ashes are temporarily lost."

Professor Woodroffe said he had to reject nearly 60 per cent of complaints received last year because the funeral companies were outside the ombudsman scheme.

CORRECTION

It was with the help of Margaret Herbertson (now Pawley) that Lady Templer (obituary, April 7) set up the Malayan Women's Institute, rather than with that of Margaret Herbison MP. Lady Templer founded the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf. Sir Gerald Templer was Constable of the Tower of London, and founded the National Army Museum.

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Health officials claim key proposals arising from deadly outbreak have been watered down

Butchers told to bear cost of E.coli hygiene measures

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

ABOUT 12,000 butchers' shops across the United Kingdom will be forced to spend up to £20,000 improving hygiene as a result of the report into Scotland's *E.coli 0157* food poisoning epidemic which killed 18 people.

Under the 32 recommendations made by Professor Hugh Pennington, all butchers selling raw and cooked meat who are not already registered under the Food Safety Regulations, 1994, will have to be licensed. Shops will also have to have strict separation in the storage, production, sale and display of unwrapped raw and cooked meat and, where possible, separation of staff involved. That represents a softening of the original recommendations made in the interim report, which said that when handling raw and cooked products, different staff would have to be used.

The recommendations were accepted by Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, on behalf of the Government. Labour, the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats criticised Mr Forsyth for failing to go further to protect the public. The official report stopped short of recommending an independent food standards agency, a plan endorsed by Labour.

The report means that the Meat Hygiene Service will be given additional powers to enforce high standards in abattoirs and in the transportation of livestock. Farms must present cattle for slaughter in a "dry and clean" condition.

The report states that all raw meat should be treated as though it is contaminated. Further research into *the E.coli 0157* bacterium is also recommended.

Publishing his recommendations yesterday, Professor Pennington, a microbiologist at Aberdeen University, said he hoped that if all 32 proposals were implemented, they would prevent another outbreak in Britain.

He added that the time had come, in the face of such a "dangerous and unpleasant organism", to end the "light-touch approach" to enforcement that had been prevalent.

The professor said that it was not his remit to go into the circumstances of the Lanarkshire outbreak last November which affected 400 people, or to apportion blame; that would be covered by the fatal accident inquiry. He could make no comment about John M. Barr & Son, of Wishaw, because of pending criminal proceedings. He also refused to criticise the Government and local authorities.

He said: "The existing regulations are inconsistent, unclear and confusing in places and sometimes difficult to enforce. Where there has been a light-touch approach over the past 12 to 18 months, the time for that has passed."

Health officials expressed dismay last night that some key hygiene recommendations had been "watered down" in the final report. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health said it was worried that the proposals would appear to allow raw and uncooked meat to be handled by the same staff.

David Statham, chairman of the institute's food committee, said: "Professor Pennington has made a massive shift away from the proposals on the separate handling of raw and fresh meat contained in the interim report in January. He is now saying that smaller businesses may not be required to have separate staff, provided there are washing facilities in the serving area. Very careful washing, including scrubbing, is needed to be certain of removing *E.coli* bacteria. I doubt whether that is feasible in a busy shop."

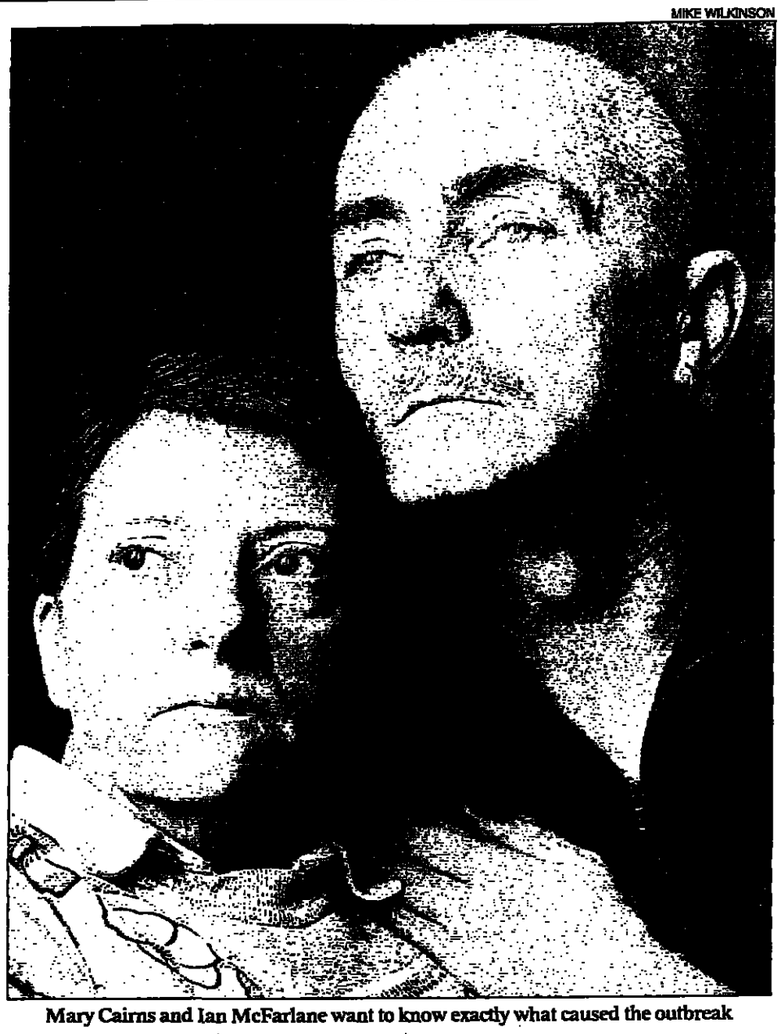
The National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents 3,000 of Britain's 12,000 local butchers, said it was pleased by the "more realistic" tone of the final report.

Sainsbury's said that it would ensure that sausages, bacon and black pudding were treated as fresh meat and not included with cooked meats on counters.



Professor Pennington introduces his report yesterday

MIKE WILKINSON



Mary Cairns and Ian McFarlane want to know exactly what caused the outbreak

Victim given 48 hours to live is afraid to go out

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FOUR months after the most serious of the *E. coli* outbreaks, one victim is still suffering after-effects of the devastating illness and struggling to return to normality.

Mary Cairns, 40, of Overtown, Lanarkshire, who was given 48 hours to live after being struck down in November, has lost her short-term memory and has a weakened immune system that makes her afraid to leave her home. The only time she ventures out is to visit hospital for the checks on her heart, kidneys and lungs that will continue for at least a year. She may need kidney dialysis for life.

Days after the outbreak in nearby Wishaw was announced, she became ill. There followed a month-long fight for her life at three hospitals after her kidneys, heart and lungs began to fail.

After weeks of intensive treatment, including kidney dialysis, blood transfusions and ten painful injections a day into her abdomen to stop her blood coagulating, doctors told her partner of six years, Ian McFarlane, she might die.

They said later that she may have been saved by her relative youth and her determination to live. Ms Cairns left hospital on December 20 weighing 6st 7lb. She had lost more than 2st.

Yesterday she said: "At one point I remember saying to Ian , I don't think I am going to make it. But then I thought I could not let this illness beat me. Now I am slowly getting better, although I am scared to go out in case I catch anything and I'm still wobbly on my feet."

Mr McFarlane, 50, a former bus driver, said: "The thought of losing her, you cannot describe the feelings at the time. It was horrific. She was so ill with constant diarrhoea for 15 days."

He added: "We would like to know what happened here. That surely was the whole point of the Pennington inquiry. But I believe Professor Pennington has been brought in to find excuses. I don't think he will find anyone to blame."

Paul Santoni, the solicitor representing Ms Cairns and more than 50 other victims, said: "We want to know what the circumstances of the outbreak are. If Professor Pennington does not outline that, then we are looking at his recommendations in isolation and the question has to be, is this a complete whitewash?"

Risk from sufferers can last for weeks

MEDICAL BRIEFING

AFTER young children have apparently recovered from the diarrhoea caused by an infection with *E. coli 0157*, they may still continue to excrete the bacteria for up to three times as long as adults. *The Lancet* has recently reported. This carrier state may be intermittent: one set of negative swabs and subsequent bacterial cultures does not prove that the child is free from infection (Dr Thomas Stuttaford writes).

Treating children's *E. coli* infection with antibiotics does not ensure that they do not become carriers, and nor is it possible for the doctor to predict the likelihood of their remaining infectious by assessing the severity of the initial symptoms. Some children who had no more than a mild stomach upset may remain infectious for weeks. With others who are very ill, the bacteria is cleared within days. American research has shown that the usual time for an adult to remain infectious is less than a week. It is at least 17 days in children. It can be much longer.

As a quarter of all cases result from direct spread from others, rather than contaminated food, *The Lancet*'s report underlines the importance of keeping children with diarrhoea away from nursery schools and crèches, and the need for staff to practise high standards of hygiene.

The severity of the complications makes public health precautions essential. When the news that people had been admitted to hospital in Scotland after being infected with *E. coli 0157* broke, the first reaction was often "So what — just another outbreak of food poisoning". Except for *The Times*, little publicity was given to the severity of the complications or to the fact that the usual symptoms of food poisoning were as nothing compared to the devastation which could be wrought by haemorrhagic colitus after this bacterial infection.

Young children are particularly likely to suffer the haemolytic uraemia syndrome, acute anaemia, failure of the blood clotting mechanism, and renal failure. Some may need dialysis for life, or a kidney transplant. Some elderly survivors have their intellects damaged.

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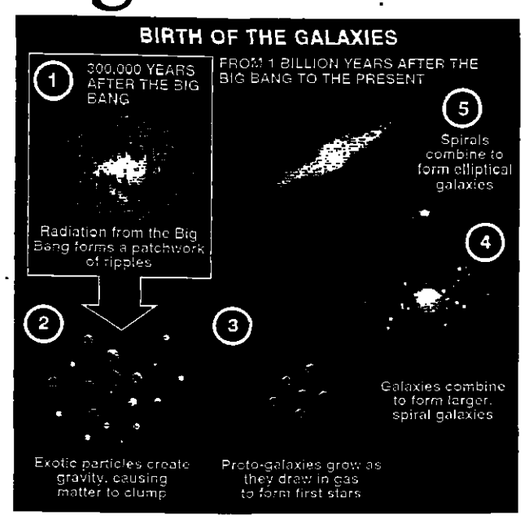
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Astronomers present picture of Universe from Big Bang through to man's search for alien worlds

Scientists solve mystery of how galaxies formed

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



ASTRONOMERS at Durham University believe they have solved the mystery of how the galaxies formed.

By combining theory with new observations from telescopes on land and in space, they have produced a complete description of the evolution of the galaxies, beginning a few hundred thousand years after the Big Bang.

Strong supporting evidence has come from images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope and the Keck Observatory in Hawaii, which can see objects so distant that they appear as they were a billion years after the Big Bang, less than a tenth of the age of the universe. In these shots, a team led by Professor Carlos Frenk has identified "proto-galaxies" only a thousandth as large as today's galaxies.

"We predicted the existence of these objects before they were seen," Professor Frenk said yesterday. "It's fairly rare to make predictions in astronomy and see them come true."

The results are to be presented tomorrow at the National Astronomy Meeting at Southampton University by Dr Carlton Baugh, also from Durham. They worked with Dr Shaun Cole of Durham and Dr Cedric Lacey of the Theoretical Astrophysics Centre in Copenhagen.

The first stage in the genesis of the galaxies, Professor Frenk says, were the "ripples in space" found by Nasa's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite. These tiny variations in the radiation that bathed the universe soon after the Big Bang, still detectable today in the form of microwave radiation, were the seeds from which stars formed.

The next step occurs when matter begins to form clumps, under the influence of gravity created by a universe full of exotic particles, known as cold dark matter. "We don't know what these particles were, but it doesn't matter for the theory," Professor Frenk says. "All that matters is that they created the gravity which brought material together to form the embryonic galaxies. As these grew bigger, they began to pull in gas from space. This gas was initially very hot but as it was pulled in it cooled, radiating energy and turning into stars."

These are the primeval galaxies, now identified as real from telescope images of the deep sky. The first evidence came from the William Herschel Telescope in the Canary Islands, a British instrument, and the tell-tale sign was that the young stars were blue, and had part of their light spectrum obscured by the gas clouds that surrounded them. More recent observations from the Hubble and Keck telescopes have confirmed the findings, and found still more primeval galaxies.

The proto-galaxies grew by colliding with one another and merging into increasingly large galaxies, Professor Frenk says. This process, which began about a billion years after the Big Bang, continues at slower speed today. Its products are the typical spiral galaxies of which our own, the Milky Way, is one.

This is not the end of the process, however. The evidence is that spiral galaxies continue to collide with one another, to form elliptical galaxies.

Our own is expected to collide with the Andromeda galaxy in ten billion years. But by then, any effects on human beings will be academic. If we have not devised a way of leaving the solar system, we will be long dead, as the Sun has only about another five billion years to go before it flares into a red giant and destroys the inner planets.

Professor Frenk compares the process of explaining the evolution of the galaxies with that of piecing together the life of an individual from pictures taken as a baby, an infant, a teenager, and an old man.

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



An ultraviolet image taken by the Hubble Space Telescope shows the supernova 1987A, surrounded by a circular shell of gas, with a foreground star at bottom left

Telescope to seek new forms of life in deep space

BY NIGEL HAWKES

WORK is beginning on a giant deep-space telescope designed to search for life outside the solar system. The spacecraft, named after Charles Darwin, will have the task of seeking out new life on alien worlds. Unlike the starship *Enterprise* in *Star Trek*, however, it will be unmanned.

The Darwin Space Infrared Interferometer will be more than 100 metres wide, and will consist of six small telescopes 50 metres apart. Signals from each telescope would be sent to a central part of the spacecraft and combined in a technique known as interferometry.

This will allow great sensitivity in picking up signals in the infrared region of the spectrum. Using infrared means that the satellite should not be so easily blinded by radiation from each star as it tries to pick out planets in orbit around it.

Stars shine a billion times brighter than planets, which is why it is impossible to see planets orbiting distant stars using an optical telescope. But at infrared wavelengths stars are only a million times brighter, greatly improving the odds of detecting a planet.

Although it has long been assumed that stars other than the Sun do have planets, there has not been much supporting evidence. From its station somewhere between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, *Darwin* should be able to observe such planets directly and perhaps pick up evidence of water which would show that they possess oceans. Even more exciting would be the discovery of ozone, which could only be produced by oxygen, and which in turn is proof of the existence of life.

Preliminary studies of the project have been launched recently by the European Space Agency, and it will be discussed at the National Astronomy Meeting in Southampton on Friday by Dr Alan Penny of Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire.

The aim is to concentrate the search on 300 stars which lie within 50 light years of Earth — virtually next door, in astronomical terms. "The telescope will be able to determine if there are Earth-sized planets around nearby stars, and to examine their spectra (wavelengths of light) to see if they have an atmosphere like the Earth's," Dr Penny said.

"Three years ago I would have thought this was a far-fetched idea. But we've been looking at the technology for a while now and I'm optimistic. There are already military structures of this size, and the design is also looking feasible with today's technology."

Dr Penny said the Darwin deep-space telescope would probably cost about £500 million, and could be launched around 2015.

Strange supernova may be result of stellar cannibalism

BY NIGEL HAWKES

THE brightest supernova since 1604 was the result of the explosion of a star that had earlier consumed its partner in an act of stellar cannibalism, the National Astronomy Meeting will be told tomorrow.

The supernova, known as 1987A, was observed on February 23 ten years ago and has proved something of a mystery. Sudden flares in the sky are the results of stars exploding, but the star whose destruction caused 1987A was much smaller than usual — a blue supergiant, about 40 times the size of the Sun, rather than the expected red supergiant, more than 1,000 times the size of the Sun.

There was also a strange veil, or nebula, surrounding what was left of the exploded star, and material from the star's core was mixed with that from its outer layers.

Dr Philipp Podsiadlowski of Oxford University will tell the conference that the explanation lies in the strange history of the star. It started as one member of a pair, which combined about 30,000 to 60,000 years ago.

The process took only a few years, resulting in a rapidly-spinning star containing thoroughly-mixed material from its companion. Because it was spinning so fast, it was unable to shrink without throwing off material to create a disc around its centre — the origin of the nebula.

Then it did shrink to become a blue supergiant, before finally exploding. Only this sequence of events can explain the strange anomalies of the supernova, according to Dr Podsiadlowski.

☐ British astronomers are preparing for the launch of a major space mission this year which will land a probe on the surface of Saturn's largest moon, Titan. A rocket carrying the *Cassini-Huygens* spacecraft will blast off from Cape Canaveral on October 6.

Seven years and two billion miles later, the spacecraft should reach Saturn. The European Space Agency's *Huygens* probe will detach from the *Cassini* orbiter and parachute drop into the orange clouds that surround Titan. No-one can predict whether it will land on a solid frozen surface or an ocean of liquid ethane and methane.

Fishing basket may have caught Henry VIII's lunch

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ARCHAEOLOGISTS believe a wicker fishing basket uncovered in the moat at the Tower of London could have been used to catch fish for Henry VIII's table.

The basket, shaped like a fish trap, is in what used to be called the West Moat, west of the White Tower, which was a fishing area used exclusively for the Royal Household in the 16th century. Close to it are the backbones of two carp.

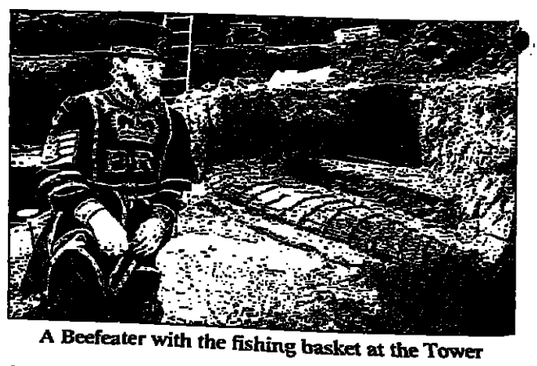
Graham Keevill, director of the excavation, said the basket dated from the late 15th century to the middle of the 16th century, when fish from the moat would have been cooked for the Royal Household. Henry ruled from 1509 until his death in 1547.

Mr Keevill said: "To unearth something like this in a moat anywhere would be very interesting, but to find it in a World Heritage Site is extremely important. The discovery backs up all the documentary sources we have on this period.

"Artefacts made from organic materials such as wicker rarely survive due to bacterial decay from the soil." Conservation experts believe that the basket was preserved by water levels in the clay and by being buried four metres below the surface.

The nine-strong team of archaeologists noticed pieces of wickerwork protruding from the trench on Monday evening but delayed unearthing it to stop it drying out. Yesterday they prepared to lift the fragile basket with the block of soil in which it is lying by slipping a piece of timber underneath it.

Experts say that an airtight container will be needed to ensure that the basket remains waterlogged and that oxygen is kept out to prevent decay. When the basket is taken out today, it will be moved immediately to Hampton Court for conservation treatment.



A Beefeater with the fishing basket at the Tower

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"The church report says most of the things Blair's advisers have not allowed into Labour's manifesto"

Howard hits the temple trail



Joe Joseph hears the Home Secretary tell Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus that strict immigration controls go hand in hand with better race relations

AS HE shuffled in and out of three religious temples in the marginal, Labour-held constituency of Ilford South yesterday morning, Michael Howard's mouth kept saying: "Thank you for inviting me". But you could tell his brain kept asking: "What captions are *Private Eye* going to put under these photographs of me with a hankie on my head and a big red spot in the middle of my forehead?"

Conservative Central Office generally leaves nothing to chance, especially when a high-profile Cabinet minister such as the Home Secretary is on the march. The day before Mr Howard made his visit to a Sikh temple, a mosque and a Hindu centre in the north-east London constituency, detectives had driven the route looking for problems and potential dangers.

The central office staff who descended on Ilford with Mr Howard carried dossiers about the candidates, contentious local issues, past voting patterns and projected voting patterns. But nobody seemed to have reminded Mr Howard that entering a Sikh temple would involve not just taking his shoes off but also putting a hankie on his head.

The way Michael Howard pronounces it, a trip to see Sikh people sounds like a hospital visit. But the 70 or so Sikhs who welcomed the Home Secretary to their temple — once a Labour hall — were fizzing with health and could not have been more welcoming to a man who had come to tell them that strict immigration controls went hand in hand with better race relations. It was a theme that echoed throughout the morning as Mr Howard tried to shrug off his reputation for being hostile to immigrants.

Sir Neil Thorne, who held the seat from 1979 to 1992, when he was ousted by Labour's Mike Gapes, must have practised at home first: he chose a tasteful blue hankie and managed to wrap it around his head like a bandana, giving him the air of a pukkah, if ageing, hippy. Mr Howard, by contrast, looked like a man who had skived off work on a hot afternoon and decamped to Southend.

As he eased off his Grieves and Hawkes black slip-ons and the hankie was tied on his head, the cameras flashed like firecrackers. It was one of those moments when you can see what makes an MP question why he is in politics.

At his next stop, a spangly new marble-lined mosque, Mr Howard was relieved that he only had to keep taking his shoes on and off, but even this began to pall. When a late-comer photographer asked him to re-enter the temple for a quick snap, he snapped back: "Oh, let's just do it here, can we?"

Sir Neil — presumably not a bosom ally of Mr Howard since it was from his Cowley Street house that John Major ran his leadership re-election campaign in 1995 — apologised to the Muslim community for the lack of notice they were given of Mr Howard's visit. He blamed the fact that with terrorism always raising its ugly head, it was important to keep the Home Secretary's movements secret until the last minute. We waited for Mr Howard to mention that Salman Rushdie was a man who also had to keep his movements secret as a result of death threats from certain quarters. But Mr Howard did not get where he is today without realising that what counts at elections is votes not virtue. So what he said was: "I'm delighted to have had the opportunity of visiting your lovely new mosque." It sounded corny, but at election time it is a vote-winner.

About 40 people were waiting when he strolled round the corner to the colourful Vishwa Hindu Parishad Temple, where it was the start of the 10-day-long Navratras festival, devoted to Veshnu Devi, the goddess of wealth, wisdom, learning and power. Maybe also of embarassment: an eager-to-please Hindu priest pressed his vermilion-dipped finger on to the Home Secretary's forehead. As the flashguns went off again, Mr Howard gave the startled but resigned look of someone who has been Tangoed.

It was time for a light snack of samosas, onion bhajis and tea. First, Mr Howard needed to visit the bathroom. By the time he had returned two minues later, the vermilion spot had miraculously vanished. If he can perform that kind of magic on May 1, the Tories may still have a chance.



Michael Howard kept his smile firmly in place yesterday as he camaigned at a Hindu temple, left, a Sikh temple, centre, and a mosque. At the first he was adorned with a vermilion spot, and at the second a "hankie". At the third, where he only had to keep taking his shoes on and off, the smile slipped a little as he snapped at a photographer

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Clark goes Awol as top brass wait to hear him speak

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Clark always had a reputation for going his own way and yesterday he accomplished a vanishing act which upset his election campaign agent and a lecture hall full of top brass from the three Armed Services.

He was due to have given a lecture about the defence establishment at the Royal United Services Institute (Rusi) in Whitehall. Invitees included Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff and a resident of Mr Clark's campaign constituency of Kensington and Chelsea.

Mr Clark, his constituency office insisted, was on his way. Rusi officials were told when they telephoned anxiously just before 1pm. The 150 or so people crammed into the lecture hall were asked to wait patiently. Mr Clark, they were told, had confirmed only last Friday that he would be giving his lecture.

Fifteen minutes later, an embarrassed Rusi official had to announce that Mr Clark, after all, was not going to arrive and the assembled guests, including foreign defence attachés, trooped back to their offices.

Rusi officials had made contact with Mr Clark in person who informed them he was "helping a friend with the election". He also said he had dictated a letter two weeks ago, calling off the lecture.

Barbara Lord, his constituency agent, however, gave a different story. She said: "I don't know where he is. He came in briefly this morning and then left. I thought he waa going to give the lecture. I can be devious when I want to be when talking to the press but I'm telling the truth."

Mr Clark later said it was just a case of double-booking. He accused the MoD of causing mischief by telling the Press Association that he had failed to turn up. In fact, it had nothing to do with the MoD. A Press Association reporter and this correspondent were invited guests.

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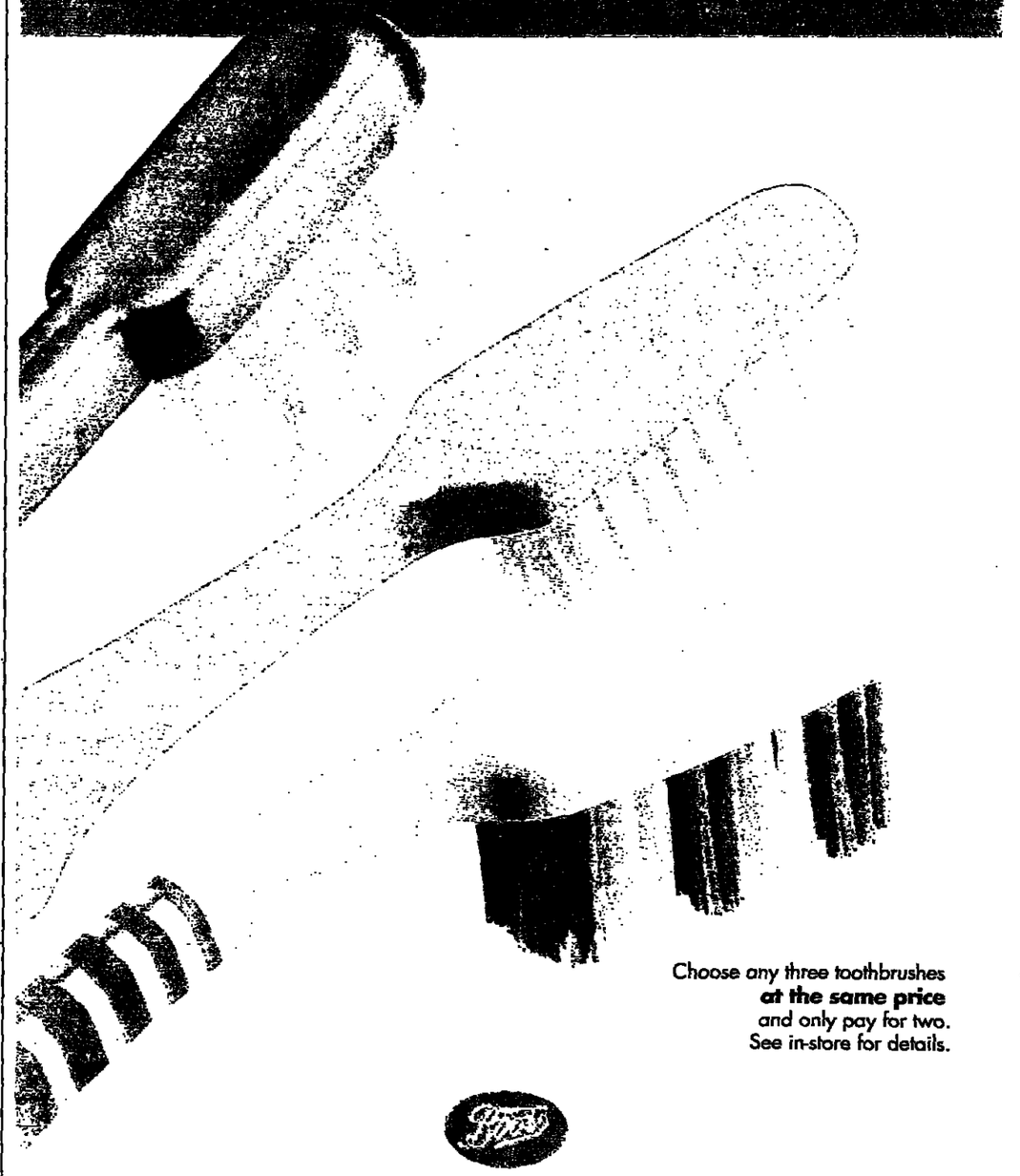
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Our politics are steeped in sleaze and corruption. Six MPs have resigned in the wake of the "Cash-for-Questions" revelations, including a government minister. Indeed, judging by that scandal, just about the only people enjoying a better life since you last voted are MPs themselves.

Above the incessant party political clatter, remember the promises they gave so freely last time - and how none of them made any difference at all to the steady deterioration in the quality of what really matters in our lives.

The family, the very basis of our civilisation, remains under attack as never before, undermining our whole social fabric. A culture of violence, fed by an unprincipled media, grips whole communities, leaving decent people to despair and live in fear. When they turn to their politicians for help, they find them too busy feathering their own nests to care.

In the same year that nurses were refused a paltry pay rise of only 3%, MPs did not stint from voting themselves a whacking 26% increase - and, yes, they also voted to spend £6 million to improve their tea room.

They did so while children awaiting treatment die for lack of resources in the NHS. As pensioners are mugged and raped because the police lack the manpower to protect them. While teachers are attacked, even murdered, because discipline and learning in too many of our classrooms have given way to truancy and a culture of new barbarism.

Too many MPs are busy sticking their greedy snouts in the trough to care. In 1996, 315 Conservative MPs held 287 well-paid directorships and 146 consultancies; and 29 Labour MPs shared 60 directorships and 43 consultancies.

Demand all candidates sign this declaration

I shall not be a slave to the Party Whips and will commit myself to act in the best interests of my conscience, my constituency and my country. Yes ☐ No ☐

I shall work full-time as my constituents' Member of Parliament, and not take backhanders from businessmen to act for them in the House of Commons, or any other paid consultancies. Yes ☐ No ☐

I shall make a full declaration before the Election of my financial interests and publicly update this record for as long as I am an MP. Yes ☐ No ☐

I shall work in Parliament and co-operate with others to seek an end to the current culture of violence in our society, particularly among the young. Yes ☐ No ☐

I shall listen to the concerns of my constituents about the need to give far greater priority in all Government policies to family and community. Yes ☐ No ☐

I shall promote reform of our antique Constitution to ensure that every vote cast in an election is of equal value and that Britain's voters are empowered with the maximum choice in future elections. Yes ☐ No ☐

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It will achieve its aims by addressing issues like political corruption, the culture of violence and collapsing family and community values.

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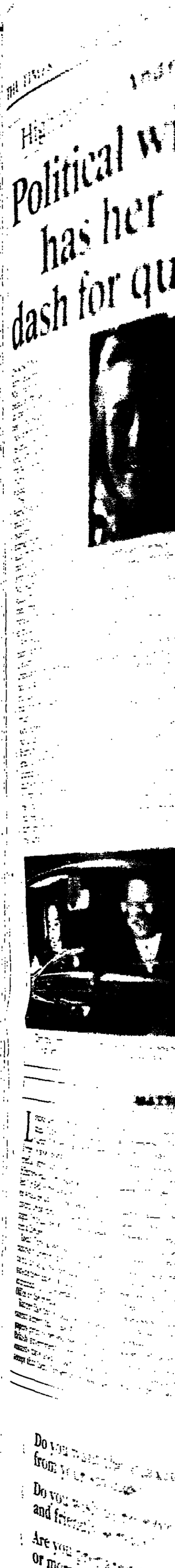
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High profiles: **Andrew Pierce** on Christine Hamilton, and **Christopher Walker** on Martin Bell

Political wife who has her own dash for questions

CHRISTINE HAMILTON once dreamed of becoming an MP, but resisted the urge because she did not want to be in the firing line. However, her extraordinary public showdown with Martin Bell yesterday was the latest in a long line of publicity stunts she has masterminded as she shares the limelight with her husband.

The redoubtable Chrstine Hamilton, 47, is unlike the traditional Tory politician's blue-suited wife. Far from gazing from the wings, she leads from the front and does most of the talking for him. If John Major had telephoned Neil Hamilton to try to persuade him to stand down, their friends joke that the forceful wife would have taken the call.

Mrs Hamilton is the dominant personality in Tatton Conservative Association. She abandoned her own aspirations as an MP to further her husband's, and friends say that she has sacrificed too much already to allow their joint career to crumble without a fight to the end. If Mr Hamilton had ever considered throwing in the towel during the darkest days of the cash-for-questions controversy, his wife has bolstered his resolve. Married in 1983, she has been her husband's secretary since he became an MP the same year. Their honeymoon was disrupted by the election campaign, and decided not to have children. Their marital motto is WDTT: "We do things together."



Hamilton: made key introductions

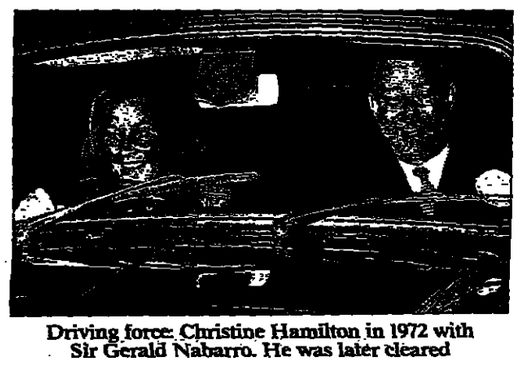
It is Mrs Hamilton — rather than her husband — who is at the centre of the web of influence which prompted the cash for questions controversy. She made the fateful introduction of her husband to Ian Greer, the lobbyist whose business empire collapsed in the aftermath of the "sleaze" scandal.

She worked in the House of Commons as secretary to Sir Michael Grylls, the Tory MP whose undeclared commission payments from Mr Greer are also at the centre of the allegations. Her best friend at York University was Michael Brown, the Tory MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, who also took undeclared cash from the lobbyist. It was Mrs Hamilton who booked the room at the Paris Ritz which began the endless train of allegations by Mr Al-Fayed, who owned the hotel.

Mrs Hamilton's name appeared on the order form at the Peter Jones department store in London for £1,000 of furniture, paid by Mr Greer and not declared in the MPs' register of interests. She was accused by Mr Al-Fayed of telephoning his office to demand regular cash payments, a charge which the couple vehemently deny.

The strain has taken its toll. She has lost a stone in weight, but does not recommend it as an aid to dieting. Many have compared her to her political heroine, Baroness Thatcher. A cardboard cut-out of the former prime minister is seated in a low chair in the entrance hall of the Hamilton's luxury Cheshire home.

Mrs Hamilton is very much an Iron Lady in her own right. Some 25 years ago, as a 22-year-old Commons secretary, she endured her first spell in the media spotlight. As Chrstine Holman, she stuck loyally by her boss, the late Tory MP Sir Gerald Nabarro, who was convicted of a dangerous driving offence. When the conviction was overturned six months later she was photographed weeping and hugging the MP, clutching a piece of lucky white heather. Loyalty has its rewards: he gave her a gleaming blue Mini car.



Driving force: Christine Hamilton in 1972 with Sir Gerald Nabarro. He was later cleared

In the early 1980s, she set her sights on a parliamentary career having studied politics at York, where she was friends with Harvey Proctor, later the MP for Billericay. He resigned his seat in 1987 after being convicted for indecency.

When her husband and Mr Proctor were punched in the face in an incident at Mr Proctor's Surrey shirt shop, it was Mrs Hamilton who chased their assailants.

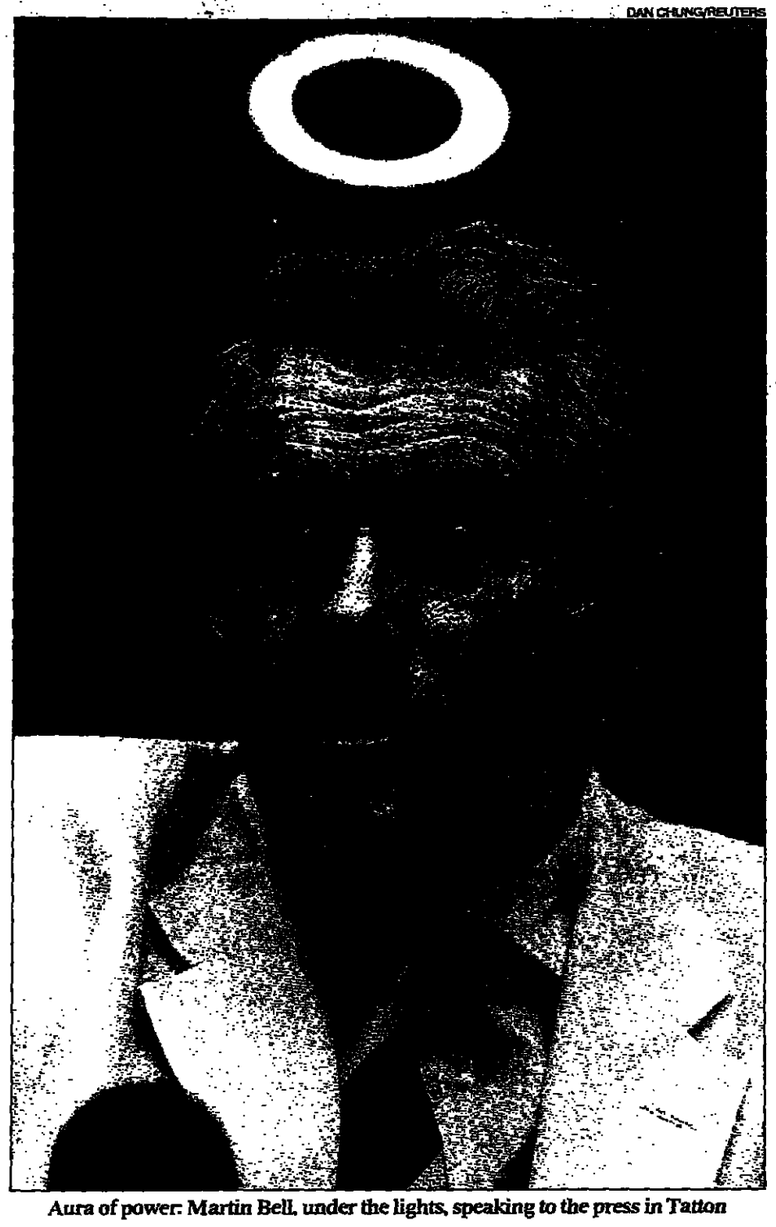
After the celebrated clash on BBC *Newsnight* between Mr Hamilton and Alan Rusbridger, editor of *the Guardian*, the journalist was persuaded not to enter the hospitality suite.

An assistant producer told him: "Christine Hamilton is offering to plant one on your nose. We suggest you leave by another exit."

Mrs Hamilton has a knack for securing almost as much publicity as her husband. She was by his side during their celebrated photo-opportunities, such as when he "declared" a gingernut biscuit after being given a free box during a factory tour. His ministerial career was over days later.

Only last week, on a tour of the damage left by an IRA bomb in their constituency, it was Mrs Hamilton who declared: "I can see the *Guardian* headline now — Sleaze MP tries to divert attention."

Mrs Hamilton rejects the phrase "the power behind the Tatton throne" as a cliché, but she is flattered that people think she could succeed her husband: "At least they would not have to change the election posters."



DAN CHUNG/REUTERS

Aura of power: Martin Bell, under the lights, speaking to the press in Tatton

A professional with the heart of a patriot

MARTIN BELL fits virtually none of the stereotypes associated with veteran war correspondents beyond a personal brand of bravery that always went far beyond the egocentric call of the frontline camera lens.

Bell was a loner rarely to be found propping up a bar in some outpost and entertaining colleagues with colourful reminiscences, true or false. Among a breed known for their humour, he was always rather dour and, luckily for his present political ambitions, never got carried away with the type of romps which often follow a hard day in the battlefield.

"I think that the main secret of Martin's longevity as a war reporter, certainly in his later years, was that he was an early-to-bed man who preferred to get up the next morning early and be fit for work," one colleague said yesterday. "He was always an inveterate early riser. His habits were just part of his sheer professionalism."

I first came across Bell in Northern Ireland and met him again during the 1990-1991 Gulf War; in 1994 we flew out from London together to cover what was wrongly feared to be a second Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. I never heard him talk politics, although he did sometimes argue about news stories from a moral point of view.

"Martin was that rare breed, an old-fashioned patriot," another admiring colleague said. "In Yugoslavia he had a ritual every morning whereby he would raise the Union flag on his car or on the BBC office — I cannot remember which. He was the sort of person whose eyes would go moist at the sound of Elgar."

While most war correspondents, particularly those working for television companies anxious for "bang-bang" footage over serious analysis, appeared to be risking their lives primarily for personal glory, there was with Bell always a strong sense of duty. Many writing journalists saw him as a soldier manqué.

There are friends who claim that Bell had a "chip on his shoulder" about not getting a commission when he did his National Service in the Suffolk Regiment. He has always believed that he made only the grade of acting sergeant, after failing the officer test, because he was too "independent and critical of authority".

Bell's scrupulous personal honesty is vouched for by BBC colleagues and rivals alike. In a Radio 4 broadcast yet to be transmitted he sets out his position that "news and money do not mix". During his four-part series *The Truth is Our Currency* he says: "I did not join the BBC to make my fortune." He acknowledges, however, that many television reporters have in the past made illicit fortunes through fiddled expenses.

Despite his austere image, Bell was always one of the most popular of BBC correspondents with his crews. He would always take their needs into account, rather like an officer with his men. An American television correspondent said: "And he would always go with them into the hairiest spots, rather than let them bring back the film for a safe commentary from base."

Some of those who have known Bell in the past had assumed that, because of his taste for "old British values", under that trademark white suit a Tory heart might beat.

BBC colleagues attribute his sudden plunge into the political arena to a combination of deep disaffection with John Birt's BBC, a reaction to the horrors of Bosnia, impending old age and a reluctance to go quietly along what one described as "an increasingly unproductive road towards retirement".

"The trouble with you Corporal Bell," his signals officer, a Captain Pat Hopper, once complained with perspicacity, "is that you think too much."

MATTHEW PARRIS

London does not begin to understand Tatton. Ranged against Martin Bell there are now two forces whose potency the London media simply fail to recognise. Our blindness leads to misjudgment — and led Mr Bell to the fantastic belief that he would be able to step down today, having despatched Neil Hamilton last night. Instead, he may have thrown him a lifeline.

Local Tory associations are quite capable of ditching their MPs but they do not do so at the command of those outside their gates, in particular, at the command of Conservative Central Office or the media.

Rather like those Saudi princes who cannot accept that what British newspapers print is beyond the control of British governments, Fleet Street columnists have always found it hard to accept that local Conservative associations are sovereign. Yet they guard autonomy fiercely. Their independence from Central Office, a Tory Cabinet, from a Prime Minister himself, is real and jealously guarded. If John Major had forbidden Tatton Tories from adopting a Mexican rattlesnake as their candidate, they would have sought one out and adopted it, just to show they could.

Second, London completely fails to appreciate how shire and suburban Tories view the BBC. Martin Bell may have become the anti-sleaze candidate but by his candidature he has confirmed Neil Hamilton as the anti-BBC candidate. There are votes for such a candidate in Tatton. Many Tories beyond the Westminster pale (and some within) would simply fail to recognise Islington's, *The Guardian's*, and perhaps even *The Times's* view of the BBC as a staid, neutral, even conservative corporation. It is regarded as little short of subversive.

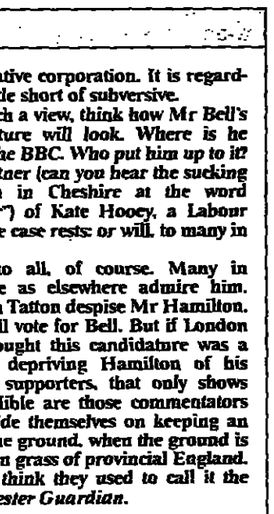
To such a view, think how Mr Bell's candidature will look. Where is he from? The BBC. Who put him up to it? The partner (can you hear the sucking of teeth in Cheshire at the word "partner") of Kate Hooey, a Labour MP. The case rests: or will, to many in Tatton.

Not to all, of course. Many in Cheshire as elsewhere admire him. Many in Tatton despise Mr Hamilton. They will vote for Bell. But if London ever thought this candidature was a way of depriving Hamilton of his natural supporters, that only shows how fallible are those commentators who pride themselves on keeping an ear to the ground, when the ground is the green grass of provincial England. And to think they used to call it the *Manchester Guardian*.

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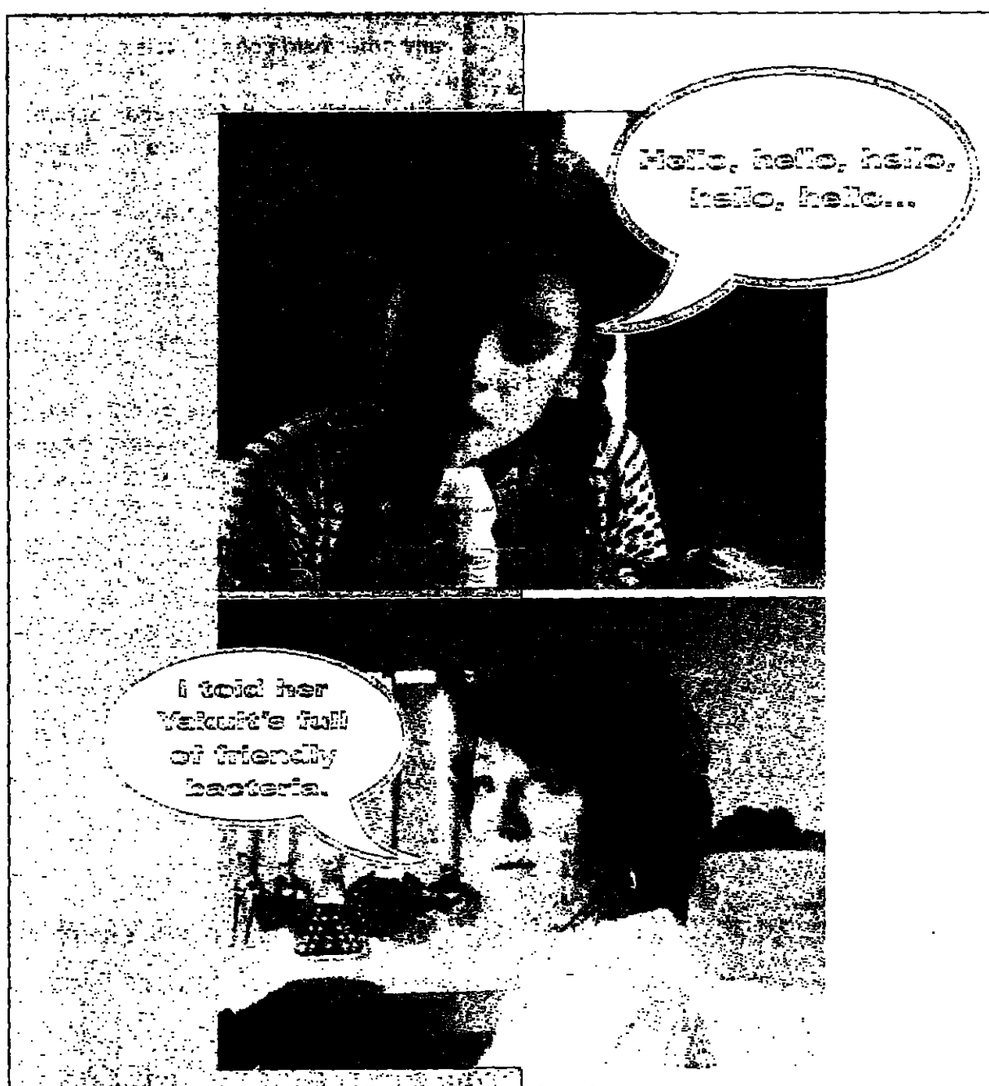
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Flying through a black hole in the middle of a dream



MATTHEW PARRIS

THE April *Tempest* of Britain's general election campaign is half over.

"... *And, like the baseless fabric of this vision ... shall dissolve. And, like this insubstantial pageant faded. leave not a rack behind.*"

But this insubstantial pageant will leave a new government. How is the pageant going? Shakespeare, that architect of dreams, would have been fascinated. For I have to keep pinching myself.

This campaign has all the characteristics of a restless night. Its elements have been fantastic, unbelievable. The logic escapes us. The action has seemed rooted in no clear narrative — new sideshows start, then spin off into space or trail into the sand.

Like a dream in which the plot, the places, the faces change without explanation, the general election story keeps switching. There has been a sense of buried hysteria: despair among the losers, of course, but — far more weird — panic in the winning party. Among those of us who have followed the political circus from street, to hall, to village green, the fear — almost palpable — hanging in the air above Mr Blair, combined with so aggressive a grip on presentation that it breathes over-confidence, presents an amalgam of two opposites, fear and swagger, which is almost impossible to put into words. The best analogy I can attempt is a man trying to fly by means of instructions in his earpiece. The manual is sound. The instructions perfect. Everything is going fine. But, having no feel for flying, the evidence around him never allays a ghastly interior terror that he is going to crash.

How shall we remember this campaign? Out of the dark, chickens loom and dance and fight. Two bears with placards and no discernible purpose; a fox, a rhino ... but why? Nor did the animals add to the sense of unreality. If anything they introduced a cosy and familiar note, after a week in which the talk was all of a girl called Anna and an MP called Piers whom nobody remembered, and whether they snogged in the park.

Then, all at once, there was a Tony Blair Trade Union Scare story. For a day, new Labour seemed to be stumbling. Few of the questions then asked were ever answered, but after two day, the story somehow went away. Where? Why? But attention switched. The Tories were blocking a television confrontation between party leaders ... then, all at once, they weren't, and it was Labour who were blocking it.

Then came the Tory chicken. But is it true that Mr Blair has blocked the debate? And, if so, why? Too late to ask: the dream has swerved away and nobody talks about it. Like Mr Major's soap box. Now they have hydraulic platforms sliding from their buses.

There was a "black hole" in Gordon Brown's spending plans, then there wasn't, then ... it isn't clear. The black hole has spun off into oblivion. Meanwhile newspapers called for two former Tory MPs, Neil Hamilton in Tatton and Michael Brown in Cleethorpes, to be rejected as candidates. This brought two days of headlines but on Monday Mr Brown was adopted without dissent — and almost nobody reported it. The story had moved to Mr Hamilton. A BBC war correspondent. Martin Bell was to stand against him as an anti-sleaze candidate.

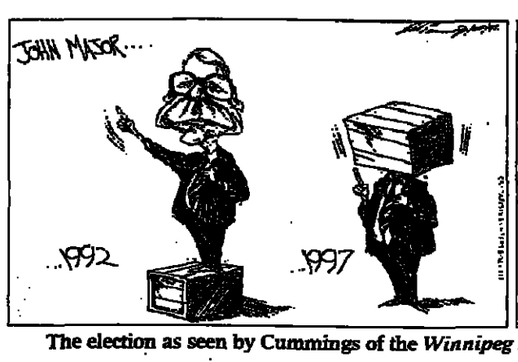
... And now, surely, we were dreaming? A journalist standing against a politician on an "honesty" platform! Mr Bell said he would resign if Mr Hamilton would. On present form, by the weekend it will be dead but nobody will report its death, or explain. Perhaps it is time for more animals.

On Sunday, as Mr Blair struggled to break free from the tentacles of a metaphor about Scotland and an English parish council, I was approached by a BBC local radio journalist who asked me if anyone had reported that the Labour Leader had been wearing an earpiece at a Sheffield football ground last week. He was there and had seen it, clear as daylight. He wondered why nobody had mentioned it. On Monday I put this to a London friend, a celebrated political commentator. "That was a Central Office lie," he said. "Millbank denies it. The video is inconclusive."

"But this fellow says he saw it. Was he dreaming?"

"London says it's lie." And that story, too, spun off into space as reports came in that the Labour High Command was sacking elderly and distinguished MPs within hours of their readoption as candidates. Or was I dreaming?

It seems unlikely, but must be true, that this fantasy stage-set of dry ice, ugly rumours, black holes and soap-boxes, special effects, chicken-suits and stalled debates on policy will produce; on May 2, a new government. It seems impossible that Labour could lose their balance now. But we are only 23 days into a 46-day campaign. The way it's looking, anything could happen.





The election as seen by Cummings of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, left, and Schrank of the *Basler Zeitung*

Major pledges to ease burden on small businesses

By Arthur Leathley

JOHN MAJOR tried to outflank the Labour Party over business policy yesterday by promising to transfer an £800 million tax burden from small businesses to Britain's richest firms.

The Prime Minister pledged to remove the widely-criticised Uniform Business Rate from 140,000 businesses and to reduce the charge for a further 600,000 firms if the Conservatives were re-elected.

The promises came as he tried to undermine Labour's claims to protect small companies by telling businessmen that Tony Blair's party would saddle them with higher costs through the minimim wage and through signing up to the social chapter.

Tory ministers have been stunned by Labour's success in wooing the business community and are determined to portray Labour as the enemy of business in spite of its pledges to encourage enterprise. Mr Major unveiled his plans for the rate reform at a conference in Birmingham before addressing businessmen in the city. He accused Labour of making "big business small" while the Conservatives, he said, had created an economic environment in which entrepreneurs could thrive.

The chief executive of Jaguar Cars denied Labour claims that he had endorsed the party's plan to give employers a £60-a-week rebate for taking on the young unemployed. Nick Scheele said he supported policies addressing the issue. "But whether this scheme is better than any other I really don't know."

The plan to remove the UBR from some firms is centred on the creation of a £1,000 "firm's allowance", which would be exempt from the charge imposed by local authorities. The move, which would remove companies with a rateable value of £18,000 from the UBR, would also enable larger firms to pay a reduced rate.

Although Tory sources admitted that the £800m cost of the allowance would lead to higher charges on the larger firms, Mr Major defended himself against charges that he was engaging in a socialist policy of wealth redistribution. He made clear that the UBR added an extra burden of some 8 per cent on turnover for some small firms but that those with turnovers of more than £500,000 a year paid only 1.4, per cent of turnover in business rates.

He said of Labour's conversion to privatisation: "They loathe the creation of wealth. It is a gut instinct for our political opponents and it always will be."

GARETH EVERETT



Dafydd Wigley, party president, promises a strong voice for the Welsh yesterday

Plaid calls for 2p tax rise for new jobs

By Valerie Elliott

THE people of Wales were urged yesterday to vote for a 2p rise in income tax to create 100,000 new jobs when Plaid Cymru launched a radical agenda for government.

Dafydd Wigley, party president, said voters in Wales never asked for tax cuts but cried out for extra cash to be spent on public services. He denied that the move would lead to a recession in Wales or would encourage people to move away.

Launching the manifesto at Cardiff City Hall, Mr Wigley set out his vision for a "Powerhouse Parliament", with legislative and tax-raising powers. He believed that such an apparatus of self-government would take about five years and a referendum before it could be fully introduced.

Voters would also decide in a referendum if they wanted the Queen or the Prince of Wales to be head of state of an independent Wales.

Purge of old MPs is denied by Labour

By Staff Reporters

ANOTHER longserving Labour MP has quit, the seventh since the election was called three weeks ago, amid claims that supporters of Tony Blair are leading a purge.

John Gilbert, 70, stepped down from his Dudley East seat even though his election literature had been printed. He said: "I have taken the decision that it is right to make way for a younger candidate."

The party leadership has denied claims that MPs are being pressurised into going to make way for younger candidates preferred by Mr Blair. However, the denials of a purge have been undermined by Sir Ray Powell, 70, MP for Ogmore since 1979. He said he had been asked to give up his Welsh seat.

It emerged yesterday that Stewart Randall, who resigned from Kingston-upon-Hull West, was at odds with John Prescott, a fellow Hull MP.

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Campaign leaves many cold



PETER RIDDELL

THE marathon general election campaign has still not developed a coherent pattern or caught the public's imagination. It is not just the absence of any real movement in voting intentions (as discussed by Robert Worcester in the accompanying article).

The most revealing of all the many campaign statistics is the finding in the last MORI poll for *The Times* that just 63 per cent say they are certain to vote, compared with 69 per cent at the same stage in 1992. At present, a mere two-fifths of 18 to 24 year olds, and less than a half of 25 to 34 year olds, say they are certain to vote.

The campaign, which is at the halfway stage, has so far been a turn-off for many; just look at the eagerness of the tabloids to avoid having the election on their front pages. It may partly be a response to all the stories about "sleaze", and diversions in Tatton, which may have produced a "plague-upon-all-your houses" reaction.

Moreover, while most people expect a clear Blair victory, there is little evidence of positive enthusiasm for Labour, or of high expectations of what the party would do in office. The safety-first minimalism of the Labour campaign fits the state of the nation. People are sceptical about grand-sounding promises and are merely hoping for small improvements. That is what Labour's focus groups of wavering voters have been telling the party for some time, and several of the five specific election pledges in the Labour manifesto (apart from the pledge to get 250,000 under-25s off the unemployment register) are limited in their ambitions. The mood is more "enough is enough" than the "dawn of a new Jerusalem".

The convergence of both main parties on the centre — in rhetoric if not detailed policy — has meant that the election exchanges have so far been more about trust and competence than alternative visions or ideologies. Labour has been arguing that the Tories cannot be trusted — a theme they will revive today on the fifth anniversary of John Major's victory in the 1992 election. By contrast, the Tories have been focusing on Labour's alleged U-turns and chopping-and-changing over policy. There has been little to excite or inspire.

Labour's big lead in the polls has also meant a reversal of roles. Tony Blair has been the frontrunner, protecting his position and quickly closing down possible areas of vulnerability. Despite a stormy visit to Scotland last Friday, he has been assured in his two main public performances, when he launched Labour's manifesto on Thursday and when interviewed on *Panorama* on Monday.

By contrast, Mr Major has been the challenger, trying to undermine the smoothness of the Labour campaign. Despite occasional irritable remarks over the continued prominence of "sleaze" stories and the Neil Hamilton saga, Mr Major has shown again how resilient and determined a campaigner he is. As he argues in his article for *The Times* this morning, he believes his Government has a strong record and deserves to be re-elected compared with an untested Labour team which has changed its views. But I wonder how many voters are still willing to be persuaded. Just as Mr Major was given the benefit of the doubt five years ago, so Mr Blair is now.

Polls have yet to show signs of a fight

Tories have far to go in so little time, says **Robert Worcester** of MORI

THE election may be half over, but in the polls it has yet to begin. Thirteen national polls have been conducted in the three weeks since the campaign began (see table).

Of these, all have shown the Conservatives at 30 per cent +/- 3 per cent, 11 out of 13 have shown Labour at 52 per cent +/- 3 per cent, ICM's two polls being the exception, and 12 out of the 13 have shown the Liberal Democrats at 12 per cent +/- 3 per cent, again ICM excepted. So much for the headline "polls apart".

This shows little change with the trend before the election was announced. From the beginning of the year to the calling of the election on March 17, 15 of the 17 polls put the Conservatives on 29 per cent +/- 3 per cent, the usually accepted sampling tolerance, while 12 out of 17 showed Labour at 52 per cent +/- 3 per cent, and 15 out of 17 showed the Liberal Democrats at 12 per cent +/- 3 per cent.

All the pollsters now "adjust" their findings apart from MORI, which believes that the public want to know the real state of the support for the parties, and not the pollsters' estimate of how the "don'tknows" might make up their minds.

The share is more revealing than the gap between the parties, as it is the most accurate and informative. At the last election, the Tories got a 43 per cent share which gave them a 21-seat overall majority. Yet if one Tory voter in 200 had voted for the second party in his or her constituency, it would have been a hung Parliament.

The last time the Tories touched 40 per cent was in September 1992; the month of "Black Wednesday". If they don't get 43 per cent again they will lose office. They've got a long way to go, and only 22 days left to do it.

OPINION POLLS

Pollster	Client	Fieldwork dates	Publication date	Con %	Lab %	LD %	Oth %	Gap +/-	Swing %
Gallup	Sun Telegraph	Mar 19-21	Mar 23	29	54.5	10.5	6	-25.5	16.75
Harris	Independent	Mar 20-24	Mar 28	30	54	11	6	-24	16
MORI	Times	Mar 21-24	Mar 27	29	50	14	7	-21	14.5
Harris	Independent	Mar 27-31	Apr 4	28	52	14	6	-24	16
Gallup	D Telegraph	Mar 26-Apr 2	Apr 4	31	52	11	6	-21	14.5
ICM	Guardian	Mar 29-31	Apr 2	32	46	17	5	-14	11
MORI	Times	Apr 1	Apr 3	28	55	11	6	-27	17.5
ICM	Observer	Apr 2-4	Apr 6	33	48	14	5	-15	11.5
NOP	Sun Times	Apr 3	Apr 6	28	52	12	8	-24	16
MORI	Ind S/Sun Mir	Apr 3-4	Apr 6	30	55	9	6	-25	16.5
Gallup	D Telegraph	Apr 4-6	Apr 7	32	53	10	5	-21	14.5
NOP	Reuters	Apr4	7 Apr	30	51	11	8	-21	14.5
Gallup	D Telegraph	Apr 5-7	Apr 8	33	53	10	4	-20	13.8

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Christian leaders enter political debate with call for higher taxes to help cut unemployment

Jobs are more than an optional extra, says church report

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CHURCH report setting out radical solutions to unemployment was published yesterday and hailed as one of the most coherently argued and authoritative documents to emerge from the ecclesiastical intelligentsia in decades.

Unemployment and the Future of Work argues that work is central to the Christian understanding of the human condition and not an optional extra.

For once, bishops and church leaders are not seen to be merely complaining, but are suggesting solutions that must be judged worthy of debate, at least by all the main political parties. The quiet, unassuming hand behind this achievement is that of Andrew Britton, a leading economist who is a committed Christian and was until recently one of Kenneth Clarke's select band of "wise men".

The report dismisses as unrealistic a theory that long-term unemployment is an acceptable way of life and is here to stay. It argues for increased taxes to pay for new jobs in health, education, childcare, help for the elderly, tourism, entertainment and maintenance of the environment.

"There is plenty of work to be done, work for people who would otherwise be unemployed," it says. "This is work which would meet real needs and at the same time enable more people to make a real contribution."

While criticising benefit fraud, the report calls for a drive against fraud by employers and landlords as well as against claimants. "There is something rather unpleasant about the moral indignation of the rich over the dishonesty of the poor," it says.

Quoting the fourth-century church father, St John Chrysostom, the report continues: "If the poor fake, it is out of need that they fake, for it is your merciless inhumanity and your cruelty that forces them to do so." The report also links the present income support system, with its reliance on a household assessment of means, to divorce and separation. "There is a strong incentive for couples to split up and live apart so that one can claim benefit while the other is working," it says.

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In one of the most radical sections, the report examines how a stable marriage and bringing up children can be achieved when both husband and wife are working fulltime. It calls for better childcare and examines a suggestion that working hours of all parents with children under ten should be restricted.

The non-Anglican nature of the report was emphasised yesterday. The working party was set up under the auspices of a sponsoring body chaired by the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard. This body, which included representatives of 11 Christian denominations, was itself set up by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, an ecumenical body that replaced the British Council of Churches in 1990.

Presenting the report at Westminster Central Hall yesterday, Bishop Sheppard said: "We are asked whether it is right for the churches to intervene in politics. We reply that underneath social and political issues lie spiritual truths about men and women." He added: "Politicians are not the only people who can bring about change. The churches should properly be seen among the opinion formers who can change the climate of opinion."

Ruth Clarke, representing the United Reformed church, said the report was the product of close partnerships between all the main Christian denominations in Britain and Ireland, and was the first time a church report had been produced in that way.

MINIMUM WAGE

The report: supports principle of a statutory minimum wage on ground that very low rates of pay now being offered are unjust and offensive to human dignity.
Labour: backs a national minimum wage, but rate will be decided later.
Conservatives: against minimum wage.
Liberal Democrats: do not support a national minimum, but back regional minimums decided by local commissions.

TAXES

The report: calls for extension of tax base, and higher rate for big earners.
Labour: no rise in income tax; no extension of VAT to food, children's clothes, books, newspapers or public transport.
Conservatives: pledge to reduce basic rate of tax to 20p; no extension of VAT to food.
Liberal Democrats: 50p top rate for those earning £100,000; raise basic rate by 1p; take 500,000 low earners out of tax.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

The report: the Working Time Directive on 48-hour limit should be implemented. Supports cutting two-year probation period for protection against unfair dismissal.
Labour: supports 48-hour limit; does not back shorter probation period.
Conservatives: oppose 48-hour limit; no change on unfair dismissal.
Liberal Democrats: back 48-hour limit in principle; back one-year probation period.

TRADE UNIONS

The report: where a majority of workers wish their union to be recognised, employers should negotiate with it, while respecting the rights of those who choose not join.
Labour: would introduce laws to require firms to recognise trade unions if the majority of the workforce wish it.
Conservatives: do not back trade union recognition.
Liberal Democrats: same as Labour.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The report: long-term dependency on means-tested benefits offends human dignity, undermines moral values and threatens to produce social instability.
Labour: no plans to reduce means-testing.
Conservatives: no plans to reduce means-testing.
Liberal Democrats: would phase out means-tested income support and family credit, replacing it with low-pay income.

JOB CREATION

The report: calls for £2 billion-a-year programme to help long-term unemployed.
Labour: a £2.5 billion programme to get 250,000 young people into work.
Conservatives: National Insurance waivers for firms taking on long-term unemployed. Bonus of £1,000 for those who get a full-time job after working part-time.
Liberal Democrats: working benefit programme for long-term unemployed.


WAYNE WILSON

The constituency of Govan epitomises what the Church means when it talks about political parties failing to address those "in greatest need"

Staring deprivation in the face

Magnus Linklater follows a Labour candidate to see Glasgow poverty at its bleakest

ON THE twenty-first floor of a tower block in Ibrox, we wait uneasily by a battered front door. Down at the end of a dimly lit corridor, a smashed window lets in a whistling draught. Plywood has been nailed to the door-frame of the neighbouring flat; behind it, more broken glass.

We have rung the bell and banged on the letter-box, but there seems no sign of human life in this abandoned place. Then, from inside, we hear a shuffling sound; the bolts are pulled back, and the door opens a crack. A pair of suspicious eyes peer out at our little group. For a moment we stare at each other. And then the candidate steps forward.

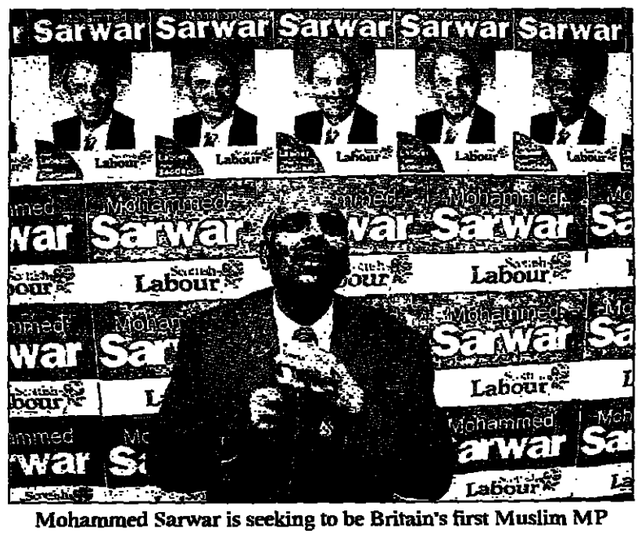
This is the constituency of Govan in Glasgow's south side, and this is poverty — stark, real, and irredeemably bleak. This, presumably, is what the Church means when it talks about the failure of the political parties to address those "in greatest need".

Certainly, as the door creaks open, the whole exercise of campaigning seems suddenly shallow. What on earth can it all mean to this frail old lady who now stands before us? Which candidate can look her in the eye and promise that from May 2 her life will begin to improve, that the damp walls of her flat will be repaired, the drug-dealers and the crime will be dealt with, above all, that her isolation, high up in this awful building, will come to an end?

To be fair, the candidate does not even try. Mohammed Sarwar, bidding to be Britain's first Muslim MP, politely introduces himself, tells her that Labour is the best way of getting the Tory Government out, and asks her if he can count on her support. She smiles and nods and whispers "Yes" — though whether this is because she means it, or because it is the surest way of getting rid of us is unclear. Then the door is firmly shut.

On the evidence of an hour's polling in this, the most deprived part of Govan, the result, for Labour, should not be in any doubt. Everyone we talked to assured Mr Sarwar of their support. By the end of the afternoon he and his agent were beaming. "It's better than I could possibly have imagined," he said, buttoning up his smart blazer and heading for the car.

And yet, if anything is to go wrong for Labour in Scotland, Govan could just where it happens. Redrawn boundaries mean that the owner-occupied suburbs of Pollokshields and Shawlands are now included.



Mohammed Sarwar is seeking to be Britain's first Muslim MP

The issue of whether new Labour can do anything to compensate for cuts imposed by a cash-strapped council is a key one. And some bitterness still hangs around the circumstances in which Mr Sarwar, 44, the millionaire owner of a cash-and-carry business, won the nomination on a narrow vote amid charges of vote-rigging and intimidation. His notional majority is only 5,609.

Meanwhile, the Scottish National Party has thrown its formidable organisation into regaining the seat which Jim Sillars won in 1988. The SNP candidate, Nicola Sturgeon, a 26-year-old solicitor, is bright, articulate, and tipped as a future party leader. Her pitch is unashamedly for the traditional Labour vote — unhappy about Tony Blair's moves to the Right and weakness on devolution.

"Tony Blair has blown the gaffe on new Labour," she says. "Power stays with him. That will go down very badly here." She points to council cuts which have just closed a much-loved swimming-pool, and local tax increases of up to 22 per cent.

All these factors are probably more important than support from Asians who form less than 9 per cent of the electorate. Despite his Pakistani background, Mr Sarwar cannot count on them en bloc. If he does win, and the odds are still on his side, it will be due to white rather than Asian votes. Whether he or anyone else will do much to change things on the twenty-first floor of that Ibrox tower block is far less certain.

Preachers of social justice are voices crying in the wilderness



Christian socialism may be back in fashion, but the authors of the churches' report on unemployment criticise all the main political parties, **Anthony Howard** writes

ALTHOUGH the Bishop of Liverpool was anxious to emphasise yesterday that the churches' report on unemployment was not intended as a partisan political document, its publication during a general election campaign ensured that it would be viewed as such. But at least government spokesmen have this time reacted with a little more restraint than they showed over *Faith in the City* a dozen years ago.

In 1985, even before that slightly rhetorical report had been released, a Cabinet member had branded it "a Marxist document". Worse, in some ways, Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, Bernard Ingham, briefing lobby journalists at No 10, had taken it upon himself to declare that in such matters the Church "did not know its arse from its elbow". Peter Lilley's reaction on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme was in comparison a model of tact and diplomacy.

It may be that the Conservative Government has simply got used to being criticised by the churches. The days when the Church of England rated as "the Tory party at prayer" have long since passed, and it is doubtful today if even the Liberal Democrats retain the legacy left to them by the SDP (for which Archbishop Runcie, in a rather questionable constitutional action, cast his vote at the 1983 general election).

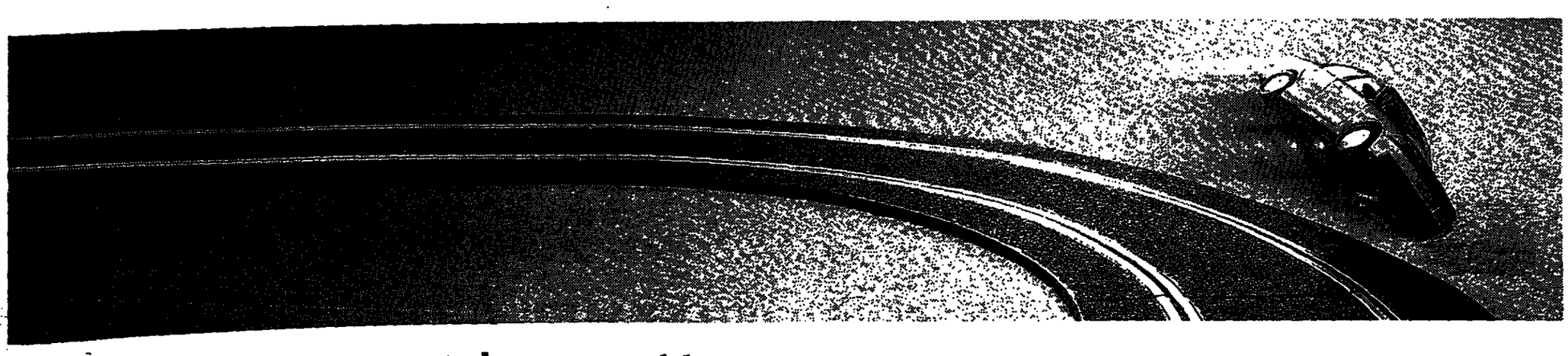
Nowadays, with figures such as the Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, the Right Rev Peter Selby, soon to be enthroned Bishop of Worcester, and even the ineffable Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin, declared Labour supporters, Christian socialism probably rides higher than at any time since the era of Temple and Cripps.

To be fair, Labour does not escape whipping in the latest report either. The report complains of what Ernest Bevin used to call "a poverty of aspiration" not in this case on the part of the working class but rather in the mentality of all political parties; like J. K. Galbraith, it detects a "culture of contentment" in the leadership of the Labour Party as much as in that of the Tories and the Liberals.

It is probably now true to say that the doctrine of redistribution is upheld far more faithfully among Christians than it is among the ranks of Tony Blair's new Labour Party, for whom it seems to have become a serious heresy. Nor does anyone in today's complacent political climate appear to wish to be identified with the dispossessed or the underprivileged. Whoever first said all those years ago, "We are all middle class now" did not know how right he would prove to be, at least about the outlook and reflexes of modern political leaders.

The British Council of Churches' 18-month investigation — admirably written up by Andrew Britton, the former director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research — should be required reading for all politicians but perhaps most of all for those bright-eyed, bushy-tailed competitive-minded figures in Mr Blair's private office. It says most of the things that, whether out of caution or cowardice, the Labour leader's advisers have not allowed to surface in their party's manifesto. It is unequivocal about the need for higher taxation, unrepentant in urging reduced means-testing, and unapologetic about strengthening the bargaining position of the weak in the marketplace.

It could be said to preach social justice — a concept that, despite the commission set up by John Smith on that subject after he became Labour leader, now seems sadly out of fashion even in "the party of conscience and reform".


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Goldsmith goes fishing for votes



The Referendum Party chose Cornwall to launch its election campaign. Ben Macintyre found that the big event failed to live up to its promise

IN a scene suffused with the odours of moral outrage and fresh fish, Sir James Goldsmith yesterday raised the standard of the Referendum Party on the southernmost tip of Britain and defied the rising tide of European red tape.

The trawlers of Newlyn, just a few miles from Land's End, bring in a varied catch but Sir James, the multimillionaire crusader against Brussels, is the oddest political fish to be landed here for many years.

"I'm not a political minnow. I'm just someone who won't see our sovereignty squandered," Sir James declared, as he strolled along the harbour at Newlyn to meet Cornish fishermen for his first day's campaigning. A small but enthusiastic crowd had turned out to cheer him in the bright morning sunlight. The Referendites are a strange mixture. Here were the well-to-do retired, worried that Brussels will interfere in everything, destroy the liberties won in two world wars and tell them how to lay their crazy paving; here too were the weatherbeaten trawlermen, protesting at what they said was the destruction of their livelihoods by European fishing quotas, Brussels bureaucracy and the incursions of foreign boats. The Referendum Party maybe paddling in the shallows of the election, but if Sir James and his cohorts are to make a splash anywhere, it will be here.

> "If you don't fight for freedom, you don't deserve it. It's to do with your country"

At the end of the dock, Sir James hoisted the Referendum Party flag on a trawler belonging to the party's St Ives candidate, Mike Faulkner, and then launched into an address promising to fight on the beaches for a referendum on Europe.

Gesturing approximately in the direction of France, Sir James struck a belligerent note, insisting that a referendum on Britain's future in Europe was the only way to protect national liberty. "If you don't fight for freedom, you don't deserve it. It's to do with your country, your forefathers, your grandchildren," he proclaimed.

"We fought many years ago, and we lost brothers and friends," chimed in a pensioner, from somewhere below Sir James's chin. "Oggi, oggi, oggi," shouted a fisherman. "There will be no national fleets. No Cornish fleets," Sir James warned. "To go out you'll need a special fishing permit from some gruesome bureaucrat in Brussels." Lieutenant Commander John Bascomb, 81, a career naval officer who survived the sinking of HMS Prince of Wales in 1941, wore his campaign medals across his jersey to greet Sir James: "The people in Brussels are directing us over our own matters, which should be our own concern," he said.

"I totally despise politicians," Sir James announced happily as he moved off to his next stop in Falmouth.

The Referendum Party, as befits an organisation with a reported £20 million in financing from Sir James, a one-issue agenda and no hope of power, is running a campaign that is refreshingly lacking in the panic and friction so evident elsewhere on the election trail. Perhaps it is Sir James's impeccable tailoring, or the advisers who tend to giggle when they try to spin, or the fact that his aide is called "Priti", and is, but one often gets the impression that this is less a political party than a displaced and rather jolly cocktail party.

Scripted by Noel Coward, with a cast including several multimillionaires, an actor, a zoo owner and a hirsute television ecologist, it is a mini-drama that might be titled: "Do let's be beastly to the Germans."

The questions raised by the Referendum Party, and the money spent on the party by Sir James, are serious, but compared with the deadly earnestness of the other political camps, this is amateur night at the pier.

In nearby Falmouth, the constituency held by Sebastian Coe, the Referendum Party is fielding the property entrepreneur Peter de Savary. Sir James greeted the faithful handful at the Chain Locker pub on Falmouth front but of Mr de Savary, who once owned both Land's End and John o' Groats, there was not a trace. The candidate has not been sighted here since the election was called. An aide said that he was "resting". And Mr de Savary's daughter Lisa, an exhibitions organiser in normal times, explained that her father had been advised not to overdo it.

Party organisers had promised: "The harbour will be filled with trawlers hooting and flying flags." A few flags were in evidence but the only hooting to be heard emanated from the happy gin and tonics surrounding Sir James as he partook of a toothsome Cornish pub lunch. Plans to have Sir James fire a starting pistol to launch a 100-boat flotilla and climb aboard a vessel were likewise abandoned. Sir James is also against overdoing it.

Such plans altered at the last minute and missed televisual opportunities would have brought spin-doctors from the major parties out in blisters, but Priti was charmingly unconcerned, as if some of the canapés had simply failed to materialise. "It was supposed to happen," she smiled.

Then Sir James waved goodbye, climbed into his private helicopter and headed back home, while everyone politely thanked everyone else for what all agreed had been a lovely day out and a perfectly spiffing party.



MARC HILL

Sir James Goldsmith starts the Referendum Party's campaign at Newlyn, Cornwall, with an attack on "gruesome bureaucrats" and the European fisheries policy

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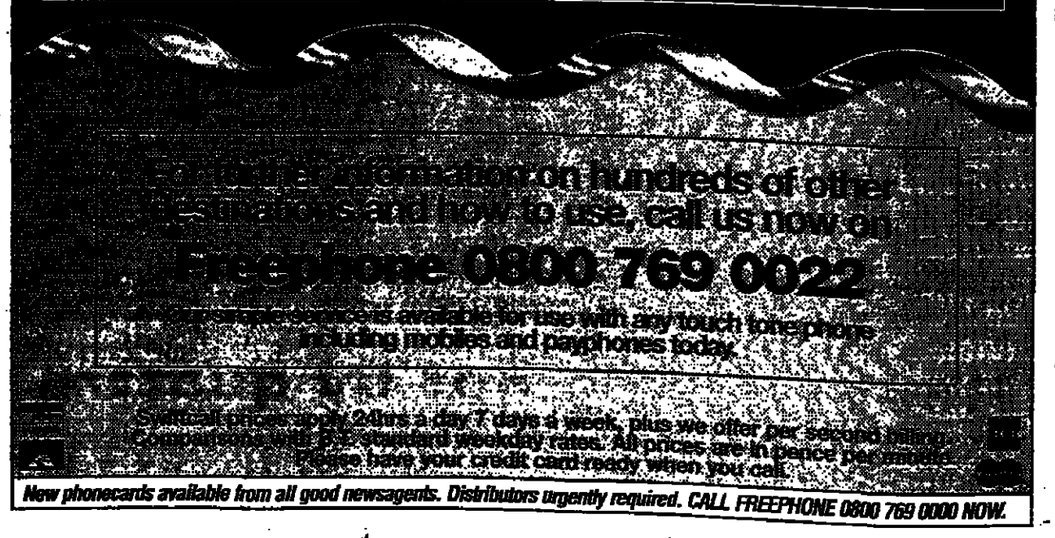
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China	60p	£1.08	Kenya	80p	£1.31	South Korea	50p	£1.08
Colombia	70p	£1.35	Kuwait	70p	£1.02	Sri Lanka	94p	£1.33
Costa Rica	70p	£1.31	Malawi	78p	£1.31	Sweden	22p	29p
Denmark	16p	28p	Malaysia	60p	£1.08	Switzerland	22p	29p
Egypt	78p	£1.26	Mexico	78p	£1.08	Syria	90p	£1.26
El Salvador	70p	£1.31	Namibia	80p	£1.31	Taiwan	40p	£1.08
Fiji	90p	£1.35	Nepal	70p	£1.08	Thailand	70p	£1.08
France	16p	28p	Netherlands	20p	28p	UAE	60p	£1.02
Gambia	86p	£1.31	New Zealand	30p	49p	Uganda	90p	£1.31
Germany	16p	28p	Nigeria	70p	£1.05	Uruguay	77p	£1.31
Ghana	70p	£1.31	Norway	26p	38p	USA	10p	24p
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Pulitzer trumpets high note for jazz

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JAZZ, regarded for much of this century as the smoke-fugged wayward cousin of the arts establishment, has received a fillip by receiving its first Pulitzer prize.

Wynton Marsalis, 35, one of the best jazz trumpeters of the day, gained the honour in a category that has in the past gone to classical music.

His victory was being regarded yesterday as a breakthrough for the music that has prospered in urban dives since around 1900.

Mr Marsalis won the Pulitzer for his oratorio *Blood on the Fields*, a 22-movement composition around the story of Africans shipped to the United States for slavery.

The sympathetic nature of the work helped his cause; the Pulitzers, which are administered by New York's Columbia University, are nothing if not politically correct.

The Pulitzer judges this year left their drama prize unawarded. They could not find an American play that they considered worthy of the award.



Marsalis: oratorio tells the story of slavery

Congress presses for tough stand over China

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

GROWING anti-Beijing sentiment from both parties in Congress threatens to give President Clinton a rough ride this summer as he attempts to boost trade with China.

Congressional critics of the Chinese Government are hoping that the White House's embarrassment over election campaign fundraising will enable them to bounce Mr Clinton into adopting a tougher line towards Beijing.

Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, this week warned senior Chinese government officials that concern about human rights, Hong Kong and a growing trade imbalance, meant that this year's debate over renewing China's "most favoured nation" status would be even more highly charged than in the past.

China's desire to join the World Trade Organisation is a second flashpoint; leading Democrats in the House of Representatives are weighing up their chances of pushing through a law requiring the United States to veto China's application in perpetuity.

The looming dispute over China is a reminder to Mr Clinton that foreign policy offers little respite from the campaign fundraising dispute and partisan squabbling that has stalled domestic politics this year. He has made "constructive engagement" the motto of his policy towards China and has supported its "most favoured nation" status, which gives it the same privileges as America's main trading partners.

In the past, congressional critics of China have been deterred from voting to withdraw China's trading rights for fear of causing huge commercial damage to the United States. This year, however, the threat posed by China appears to have grabbed the imaginations of members of Congress from both parties, filling the vacuum left by the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Congressional opponents hope that the Administration is now so sensitive to allegations of illegal Chinese donations to last year's election campaign, that it cannot afford to be soft on China for fear of being accused of looking after its friends.

The vote is due in June, but is likely to be postponed until after July 1, when China regains control of Hong Kong. Some Senate opponents want to delay it a further three months to assess China's behaviour towards the former colony more fully.

The more distant question of World Trade Organisation membership is likely to attract fiercer opposition. According to American trade officials, China wants to reach broad agreement with the United States on its accession to the world's largest trading organisation before an autumn summit between Mr Clinton and President Jiang Zemin of China. However, the gulf between the two on tariff levels remains formidable.

If Congress succeeds in forcing the White House to take a harder line, it would mark a severe setback for Mr Clinton and would further complicate the already tense relations between Washington and Beijing.

Leading article, page 21



A Palestinian firebomb explodes near Israeli troops during yesterday's fresh wave of violence in Hebron

Violence eclipses Netanyahu return

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMERICA'S latest Middle East peace initiative was yesterday swiftly overtaken by fighting in the disputed West Bank city of Hebron. By nightfall three Palestinians were dead and more than 100 injured. Four Israeli soldiers were also wounded.

The violence erupted only hours before Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, arrived back from talks in Washington with President Clinton that failed to end the dangerous deadlock in the peace process, which many fear is pushing the region to the brink of war.

Mr Clinton described the talks as "very specific, frank, candid and long", a diplomatic way of pointing to deep differences between the American and Israeli positions. Last night Israeli rightwingers praised Mr Netanyahu for making no concessions.

A spokesman for Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, blamed the bloodshed on the Israeli Prime Minister, whose approval of a large new Jewish settlement at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem provoked the latest crisis when bulldozers began work there on March 18. Twelve people have since been killed, including three Jewish women in a suicide bomb attack. Nearly 800 Arabs have been wounded.

Yesterday's fighting was the most serious in a single day between Israeli forces and Palestinian mobs since the new crisis began. Both sides gave different versions of how the trouble began.

The spark that ignited passions on both sides came when a 23-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by two Jewish settlers studying at a religious college. Palestinians said the shooting was unprovoked, but Israeli police claimed that the shots were fired after the Jews were attacked with teargas.

Jibril Rajoub, the head of the Palestinian security forces in the West Bank, rejected Israeli claims that the dead man, Assam Rashid Arafeh, had been shot after the two Jews were attacked by Palestinians. "I think this is a very grave incident, and I think it will lead to an escalation of the situation," he said.

As hundreds of Palestinians attacked across the divide, the Israeli troops — part of a large unit based deployed to defend the 450 Jewish settlers living among 120,000 Hebron Arabs — opened fire, first over the heads of the attackers, then with rubber-coated bullets and teargas. The Israelis denied claims that they had fired live ammunition.

Two other Palestinians, whose ages were given by hospital sources as 15 and 24, died after they were hit in the head by rubber bullets.

Later yesterday, hundreds of Palestinians marched in the funeral procession of the first victim, vowing to avenge his death. Uniformed Palestinian police carried the flag-draped corpse and honoured the dead man with a 21-gun salute.

WORLD SUMMARY

Strike by drivers hits India

Delhi: Indian industry is being paralysed by a nationwide lorry drivers' strike, forcing the army to move crucial supplies and leaving ports paralysed by stockpiled goods (Christopher Thomas writes).

Many companies say they will halt production if the nine-day stoppage goes on. The strike, called by the All India Motor Transport Congress, is in protest at a planned transport service tax.

Flying into rage

Phnom Penh: Fed up with lost luggage and delayed flights, the president of Cambodia's chamber of commerce, Teng Boonma, believed to Cambodia's richest man, shot out a tyre on a parked Royal Air Cambodge 737 jet. No action was taken against the tycoon. (AP)

Court explosion

Urbana, Illinois: A man threw a firebomb at a judge during a trial, causing an explosion and fire. The judge at the Champaign County courthouse was treated in hospital for a scalp wound and three other people had minor injuries. (AP)

Famine warning

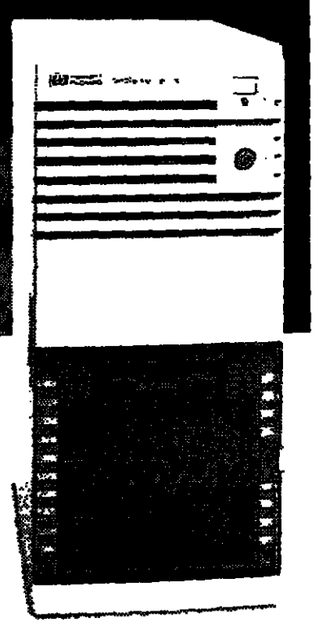
Tokyo: North Korea is threatened by a famine and only urgent international assistance will avert mass starvation, Tony Hall, an American congressman said after touring northern areas (Robert Whymant writes).

Major minor

Beijing: A Chinese woman in central Henan province has given birth to a baby weighing 19lb 13oz and measuring 28in. The boy, the size of an 18-month infant, was born by Caesarian section. (AFP)

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HEWLETT PACKARD



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France hopes display of almost 1,000 paintings will restore works to rightful Jewish owners

Art treasures looted by Nazis on show in Paris



An exhibition bound to stir anguished memories has just opened, writes Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent, in Paris

IN AN exhibition which opened in Paris yesterday there was no question of which artists the works could be attributed to: the problem was to which owners could they be attributed?

The paintings, including masters such as Picasso, Matisse and Renoir, were among almost 1,000 works of art looted from French Jewish families by the Nazis. Many were seen for the first time yesterday. The French Government is staging exhibitions at five museums so that the original owners may see them, recognise them and lodge a claim. It is the first official attempt to locate the owners since the works were taken away 50 years ago.

"Why did it take half a century?" demanded a survivor of the Holocaust at an impassioned conference at the Pompidou Centre yesterday. "How can you suggest that works were bought on a flourishing market when they were stolen?" a former Resistance fighter, Jean Demartini, asked museum staff. A genealogist, François-Louis A'Weng, called on the French Government to open up its archives to help in the search.

In such circumstances, it was difficult to look at paintings by Matisse, Dufy and others without letting the imagination wonder what they might have witnessed before being snatched from the homes of their owners. More than 75,000 French Jews were murdered in the concentration camps, having been sent there with the collaboration of the Vichy regime.

Paintings by masters such as Corot and Utrillo, many of peaceful country or gentle urban views, perhaps mirrored the kinds of scenery through which the victims would have passed on their way to Drancy and the East.

The Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Pompidou Centre, National Ceramics Museum in Sèvres and the palace at Versailles are each displaying a share of the pillaged treasures.

> "Survivors, who experienced rape and death, are seeking moral justice through the return of these works"

For the first time in decades, the Louvre showed delicate oil studies by masters such as Fragonard and Delacroix; and 12th-century carvings from unidentified churches. Many of the works were from the studio of the masters: a striking image of St Peter by Cranach, the 16th-century German painter, or a charming blind man and his dog by Ostade, the 17th-century Dutch artist. Among 102 drawings that have finally seen the light are *The Adoration of the Magi* by Tiepolo, perhaps the greatest Italian 18th-century artist, and a tender image of an old woman attributed to Goya.

Ida Grinspan, who was deported to Auschwitz where her parents were murdered, was among those at the Pompidou yesterday. She came out of interest, not because she believed some of the images belonged to her family. "My father was just a tailor, a good tailor, but he did not have paintings." She survived the death camp because her mother arranged her hair to make her look older than her 14 years: children were automatically killed because they were unable to work.

Looking at a powerful 1921 Picasso *Head of a Woman* and a gentle Dufy view of Venice, she sighed: "Part of the people who owned them is with each of these paintings." Myriam Glikerman, of the European Jewish Congress, said that survivors who had experienced "rape and death, death, death" were seeking only moral justice through seeing these works of art returned home.

Serge Klarsfeld, the Nazi hunter who tracked down Klaus Barbie to South America and whose father died at Auschwitz, said yesterday that, just as the war criminals should never be allowed to rest, the works should be reunited with the owners: "The victims are still suffering," he said.

Philippe Douste-Blazy, the French Culture Minister, said recently that the decision to show the treasures had been made "out of a concern for openness". However, in January, France's state auditors accused national museums of failing in their legal duty to seek the rightful owners of these works: under a law passed in 1949, the museums are obliged to find the owners.

In opening the Pompidou's show, its president, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, spoke of "a concern for truth and transparency". He noted how they were presenting the works alphabetically, with all the known documentation, including photographs of the backs of paintings, where labels could offer clues.

Didier Schulmann, of the centre, said that "history has left its mark on these works". Pointing to a 1929 painting of two nude women by Foujita, the Japanese-born Impressionist, he said its provenance would now include the name of a woman who perished in the death camps.

According to the French Government's figures, 100,000 works of art were reported as looted by the Nazis after the war. Tens of thousands were returned to France and 45,441 handed back to their owners; the rest were either sold, distributed among public collections or kept in store. Thousands more, including works by Picasso and Dali, had been slashed with knives or burnt by the SS. Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretary-general of the European Jewish Congress, spoke of his shock that the French museums were suggesting that the works were acquired on the flourishing art market of the war years: "It gives legitimacy to all that happened. Paris was a recycling centre of stolen goods."

Martin Savitt, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "These exhibitions are of tremendous importance. These works were stolen from Jewish ownership in the 1940s. We are hopeful that the heirs can recognise the artefacts and make a claim."

He spoke of being inundated with letters from children and grandchildren of the victims: "I sit here and cry and it's terribly emotional." He added that works that could not be reunited with the original owners should be sold. The proceeds, he suggested, could be directed towards Eastern Europe: "Most of the Jews in the Ukraine and the Baltic states never had a penny of compensation."

Similar thoughts were expressed by Philip Saunders, a British specialist in tracking down art stolen during the war: "I don't think the French state should keep them. This is other people's work." The Simon Wiesenthal Centre has called on France to send the works on a world tour to help their original owners to see them.

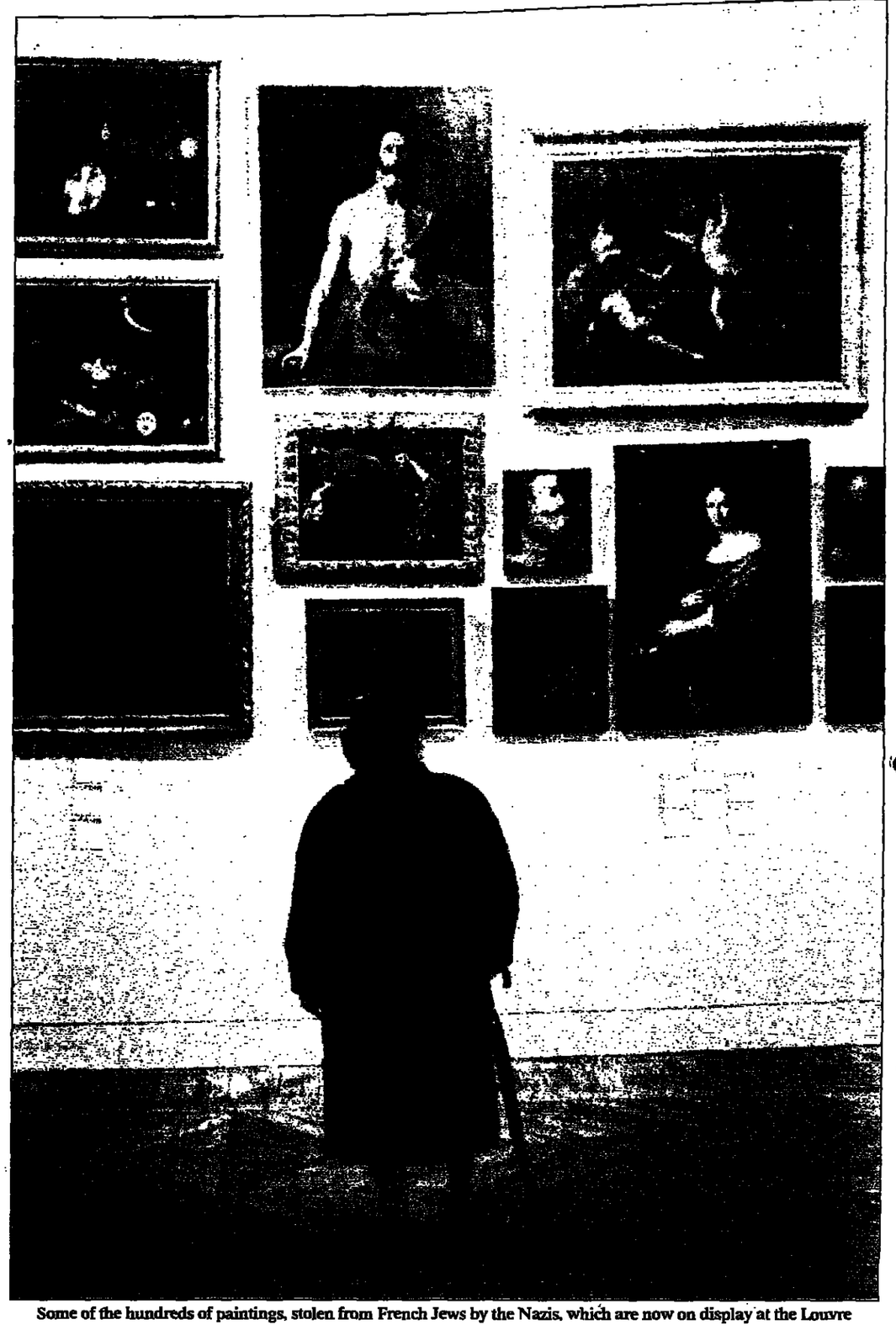
While people walked silently through the exhibition halls, one visitor noted that Goering, who was fond of art, or at least art collections, had done something similar in 1940. He came regularly for exhibitions of looted works at the nearby Jeu de Paume museum: art was delivered by the truckload, champagne was laid on for him and he took his pick, steering clear of anything the Führer wanted.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Ida Grinspan, with photograph of herself after Auschwitz, at the Pompidou Centre

MARTIN BEDDALL



Some of the hundreds of paintings, stolen from French Jews by the Nazis, which are now on display at the Louvre

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Six narrow slits that sank the Titanic

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE *Titanic* was sunk by a series of astonishingly narrow slits and not, as supposed, by a huge gash to her bow, research has shown.

French and American underwater explorers, using sound waves to penetrate the thick mud which still surrounds much of the doomed liner, showed that she was undone by six slits on her starboard side. They are the width of a man's palm, and their total surface area is no bigger than two paving stones.

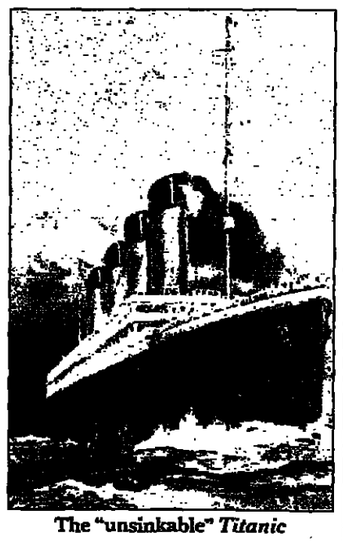
Since the Belfast-built vessel sank on the night of April 14, 1912, it has commonly been supposed that the iceberg she struck left a gaping 300ft hole in her side. She sank within two hours and about 1,500 people died, including the band, which reportedly played on.

A television documentary to be broadcast in the United States this weekend — close to the disaster's 85th anniversary — will detail the damage caused by the iceberg: six slits, in a pattern similar to those one might make with a knife in the top of an apple pie.

Their size meant that the ocean rushed in to the *Titanic* at a terrifying rate — faster, said a shipbuilding expert yesterday, than the rate achieved by a modern fireman's hose, and certainly more than even the most modern bilge pump could bail out.

The position of the slits was also crucial to the loss of the "unsinkable" liner on her maiden voyage. They penetrated the steel skin and holed the ship's front six watertight compartments. Had she not been going so fast — about 22 knots — the gashes might not have been so bad and she might have survived.

The evidence vindicates the testimony given to the 1912 British inquiry into the disaster by Edward Wilding of Harland & Wolff, the Belfast shipyard which built the liner. He maintained, to widespread disbelief, that the ship was damaged in a number of areas, probably in the manner of slits. David Livingstone, a successor to Mr Wilding at Harland & Wolff, said yesterday: "Wilding got it right."



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Nato balks at tough Russian demands as security talks enter final stage

Russia accepts that it cannot stop Nato's growth. But it is applying maximum pressure to limit its impact, writes **Michael Evans** in Brussels

MOSCOW is demanding tough terms for signing a politically binding security charter with Nato, some of which were rejected out of hand by the alliance yesterday in a meeting with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister.

The search for a deal with Moscow that will guarantee Russia a strategic partnership with Nato is now approaching the final stages. The intention is for President Yeltsin to attend a summit at the end of next month, probably in Paris, to sign the charter that will declare the formation of a Nato-Russia Council and offer Moscow pledges about the manner in which the alliance is planning to open its doors to new members from Central and Eastern Europe. Although there is a high degree of optimism at Nato headquarters that the Russians will agree to a deal, senior officials underlined the challenges that remain. One senior Nato source said about 60 per cent of the text for the charter had been agreed.

At yesterday's meeting at Nato headquarters between Gebhardt von Moltke, the Assistant Secretary-General, political affairs division, and Nikolai Afanassievski, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, the main stumbling-blocks to a security charter could be summed up in one word — infrastructure. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are expected to be among the first countries to be invited to join the alliance, and the Russians have accepted that they cannot prevent such a move. So they are applying maximum pressure to limit Nato deployment of "foreign" troops and equipment into their former satellite states. "Infrastructure to the Russians means one Nato soldier crossing the border," a Nato source said.

Moscow has already won a significant concession on the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons, known as the "three no's". The charter text says the alliance has "no intention, no plans and no reason for deploying nuclear weapons" on the territory of new member states.

Now Russia is trying to get a similar deal on conventional forces, although Nato will not allow Moscow a veto to stop basic infrastructure work being carried out, including improving runways to Nato standards, ensuring air defence systems are inter-operable and building "facilities" to enable alliance forces to be deployed rapidly to the new member countries in an emergency.

The Russians are beginning to come round to Nato's argument that it is necessary to ensure inter-operability, between existing and new members, but say this does not mean large garrisons of troops and tanks permanently based in the countries. However, if Nato concedes too much to Moscow, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will think they are second-class members of the alliance.

To underline the lingering Cold War paranoia that still influences Moscow's thinking, Russia has come up with a new formula for regulating the size and location of forces under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty.

Moscow insists that Nato enlargement will change the balance of forces agreed under the treaty. Nato is prepared to offer "generous" new conditions, one of which is that if "foreign" troops *are* deployed in the new member states, those countries will have to reduce their own national forces by a comparable amount.

However, Moscow has now proposed that the balance of forces in Europe should be based on three troop components: Nato, former Soviet Union and former Warsaw Pact. A senior Nato source said this was totally unacceptable. "Russia is isolated on this one," the source said.

Moscow has made it clear that if a charter is agreed, it wants it signed at a separate Nato-Russia summit "well before" the Nato meeting in Madrid in July which will invite the new members to join the alliance. There is optimism that a charter will be signed next month.

Twelve countries have formally applied to join Nato: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithunia, Latvia, Estonia, Albania, Macedonia and Slovenia.

Prodi faces defeat over Italian force for Albania

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

LAST-MINUTE uncertainty over Italy's imminent military intervention in Albania threatened to bring down the centre-left Government last night. Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, was facing parliamentary defeat just hours before the first advance units of the Italian-led force are due to arrive in Tirana.

Signor Prodi appealed to MPs to back him, saying Italy's international reputation was at stake and that failure to intervene in Albania would be "dishonourable".

He had expected to push a government motion approving the military intervention through the lower house today with the support of the centre-right Opposition, led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister. But Signor Berlusconi said the Opposition, which also includes the far-right Alleanza Nazionale led by Gianfranco Fini, would table its own motion and would either vote against the government motion or abstain.

The Right appeared incensed by what it saw as proof from a senior Prodi administration official that the Government's aims were not confined to the protection of humanitarian aid but also included the removal from power of President Berisha and his right-wing Democratic Party. Signor Fini said his party would only vote for intervention in Albania if Signor Prodi stepped down.

"We are already living in the post-Prodi era," *La Stampa* reported. "We cannot put 2,000 Italian lives at risk when we are so divided." The centre-left coalition, which includes the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), or the former Communist Party, won historic elections a year ago this month. It has a majority in the Senate, which voted yesterday, but in the lower house depends for a majority on the hard-left Rifondazione Comunista. Rifondazione, led by Fausto Bertinotti, has kept Signor Prodi in power despite ideological differences over budget cuts and privatisation.

Signor Bertinotti has refused to back Signor Prodi over Albania this week, arguing that intervention would be a dangerous mistake, at the taxpayers' expense, and an act of "neo-colonialism". Albania was occupied by Fascist Italy 58 years ago this week.

The multinational force has been dogged from the start by uncertainty over its make-up, aims and operational tactics. *La Repubblica* said the real purpose of the intervention, dubbed Operation Sunrise, was not so much to protect aid convoys as to "reconstruct an embryonic Albanian state".

The collapse of the cross-party consensus yesterday came after Piero Fassino, the Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for the Mediterranean area, told a PDS meeting that President Berisha had to step down, if not immediately then in the future. "That Berisha should go is clear to us," Signor Fassino, a prominent PDS leader, was quoted as saying. "By us I mean not just the PDS, but the Government as a whole."

An advance party of Italian and French troops was due to secure Tirana airport tomorrow, defence officials said. The bulk of the 6,000-man force — from Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Romania and Turkey, and commanded by an Italian general — was expected next week, with the aim of securing the ports of Durres and Vlore and a "corridor" from the coast to Tirana.

Letters, page 21

Border guards 'humiliate' Rock general

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID AND DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

THE Foreign Office will complain to Spain today over the mistreatment by Spanish border guards of the commander of the British armed forces in Gibraltar.

The incident, which onlookers described as a humiliation, occurred on Saturday when Major-General Simon Pack, in civilian dress, was stopped at the border with Spain and asked to step out of his private Gibraltar-registered car. The general produced his military papers, but the guards insisted on seeing documentary proof of residence in Gibraltar.

General Pack had to drive back to his home and return with papers to prove that he was lawfully resident there. According to witnesses, a guard threw the papers to the ground. They were retrieved by the general. He was then allowed to enter Spain.

Perer Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, said: "This is a vivid example of the contempt and aggression which people face at the border."

A senior official at the British Embassy in Madrid said: "This is one more of those incidents ... in which our people are harrassed unnecessarily."

ALEXANDER DEMIANCHUCK / REUTER



Russian soldiers stand solemnly to attention in St Petersburg yesterday as a boy walks by during a rehearsal for next month's Victory Day parade

Germany's jobless total sets record for month

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN BONN

GERMAN unemployment figures reached a postwar record for the month of March with an increase of nearly 400,000 compared with last year, prompting both union and employers' associations to cast doubt on the Government's goal of halving unemployment by 2000.

Although the unemployment rate fell last month to a seasonally unadjusted 11.7 per cent or 4.48 million from February's 12.2 per cent or 4.67 million — the highest level since 1933 — further increases are expected in coming months.

The fall was mainly linked to milder weather, which allowed construction labourers to return to work, while the trend in manufacturing and other sectors remained weak, the Federal Labour Office reported yesterday.

"It was expected that the March figures would be better than February because of the improved weather, which has boosted the building industry," said Holgar Fahrinkrug, an economist with the United Bank of Switzerland in Frankfurt. "But there are not too many good signs for a downward trend. Companies are still under enormous pressure to rationalise and there is no signal for long-term jobs growth until at least autumn or next year." Analysts said continuing high unemployment meant the Government faced a challenge cutting its budget deficit in time to fulfil the Maastricht treaty criteria to qualify for economic and monetary union.

The data from the Labour Office immediately dampened chances of a cut in German interest rates, as it fell short of predictions for unemployment figures issued by the Bundesbank.



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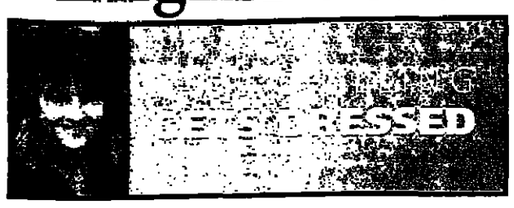
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WHICH? THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER GUIDE

A thorn in the side of an English rose



ONE of the things about living in a country where the weather is so cruelly capricious, is how pathetically grateful it makes one when it all goes right. Usually April brings not the gladdening signs of spring, but icy blasts and torrents of rain (and probably hail and snow as well), quite indistinguishable from what goes on in January and February, and most unconducive to the casting of a single clout. Shivering inside one's woolly jumper — matted with long wear — one reflects bitterly that it will probably carry on like this well into August.

But then, miraculously, every so often there comes along a proper spring, with lambs and apple blossom and bluebells all arriving in a rush, and lilies of the valley coming up unseasonably early and sunshine warm enough for one to sit out and admire this beautiful extravagance of new life and hope.

'Beware! The wrap front parts in all directions'

And of course, what with everything looking so fresh and new and flowery, one's thoughts begin to drift towards one's own appearance. A plague on scratchy tweed and hairy sweaters and horrid frowsty black and its ugly sisters, brown and navy. What we want now is lightness and gaiety and, luckily for us, this year the designers have unaccountably not decreed that the *Modern Woman wishes to* spend the spring in flapping *tailleurs* of porridge-coloured viscose hessian, or shift dresses of unforgiving cut in citric shades so tart that they make your teeth hurt.

On the contrary, the womenswear departments of the big stores currently resemble the main tent at Chelsea Flower Show, bursting with rail after rail of delicious little dresses — ruffled, wrap-around wisps of chiffon or crepe in sweet-pea colours. So chic, so simple — none of that fussing that one has to go in for with separates — just slip it on, tie the sash, and there you are. The perfect look for the traditional English rose.

Except, beware! Not for nothing does the traditional English rose have the unenviable reputation of being the worst-dressed woman in Europe, if not the world. Let us suppose, for a moment, that you have bought one of these little flowery wrapover wisps. There it is on the hanger, all set to transform you effortlessly into the Queen of the May. Standing in front of the mirror, you shrug it on, do up the little ribbon ties and, hey presto! there you are, effortlessly transformed into Mrs Overall in her herbaceous wraparound pinny.

Good God! Can your ankles really have become that thick in the course of the winter? Or is it just the effect of those simple little ballet pumps which you have slipped on? Perhaps it will be better when you are sitting down — one of the charms of the wrap-over frock is the artless way in which it discloses an alluring expanse of leg. You sit down. The wrap-front parts in all directions, disclosing an expanse of stocky limb all the way up to your American Tan gusset (and a hefty slice of brassiere into the bargain). Alluring is, perhaps, not quite the *mot juste*.

Oh dear. Well, it is a hard lesson, but one worth learning as early as possible, that the authentic look of carefree chic — the one that says, What, this? Oh I just opened the wardrobe and out it popped, isn't it sweet? — is not achieved without vast amounts of effort and calculation.

This is a lesson that many English roses find, for some reason, terribly hard to absorb. Ravishingly pretty at 20, with the glossy looks that perfect good health and extreme youth bestow, they look glorious in anything and consequently feel no need to acquire the boring and rigorous self-discipline needed for real elegance later in life.

But if you are a day over 25 and you want to avoid a disaster, the first time you take that pretty, easy-to-wear little dress out for a stroll in the bright April sunshine, you had better subject yourself now to a programme of ruthless firming and toning and depilation and body-buffing. Not to mention the purchase of some impossible-to-walk-in sandals and some very modest and very expensive underwear (since, no matter how ladylike your gestures, sooner or later, the treacherous wrap-front will expose it).

Alternatively, you could just reach to the back of the wardrobe for last year's porridge-coloured viscose . . .

It's a wrap



Designers have given the wraparound dress a new slant for summer, with diagonal ruffles for a fresh, romantic look. Style Editor **Grace Bradberry** chooses three variations



ABOVE: Blue floral dress, £49.99, by Oasis, from stores nationwide

LEFT: Tie dress, £45, from **Warehouse**, 19-21 Argyll Street, W1

RIGHT: Clements Ribeiro dress, £595, from **Koh Samui**, 65 Monmouth Street, WC2



PHOTOGRAPHER: Karl Grant; HAIR AND MAKE-UP: Denise Rabor; MODEL: Nicola at Models 1

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DIAMONDS ARE STILL A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

IN 1932, Coco Chanel staged a Paris show devoted entirely to diamonds. The exhibition was worth £10 million, and never reached London because Customs demanded too big a deposit.

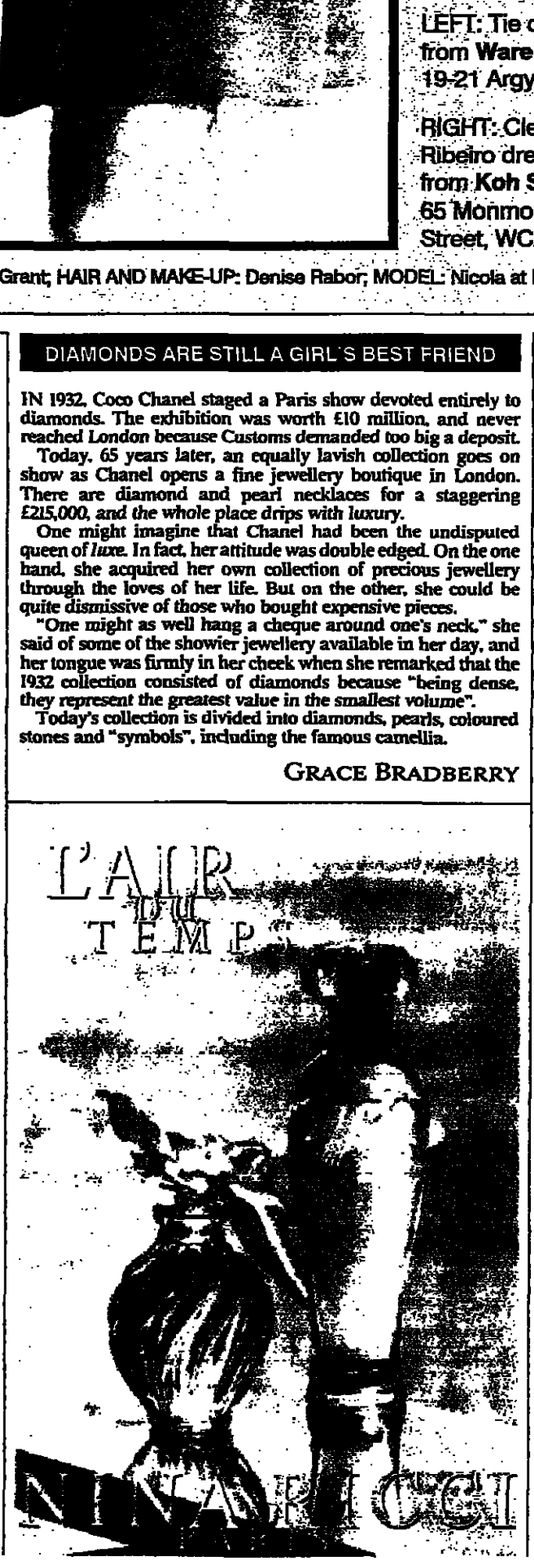
Today, 65 years later, an equally lavish collection goes on show as Chanel opens a fine jewellery boutique in London. There are diamond and pearl necklaces for a staggering £215,000, and the whole place drips with luxury.

One might imagine that Chanel had been the undisputed queen of *luxe*. In fact, her attitude was double edged. On the one hand, she acquired her own collection of precious jewellery through the loves of her life. But on the other, she could be quite dismissive of those who bought expensive pieces.

"One might as well hang a cheque around one's neck," she said of some of the showier jewellery available in her day, and her tongue was firmly in her cheek when she remarked that the 1932 collection consisted of diamonds because "being dense, they represent the greatest value in the smallest volume".

Today's collection is divided into diamonds, pearls, coloured stones and "symbols", including the famous camellia.

GRACE BRADBERRY





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There's no excuse for not voting

Apathy is no reason for first-time voters to stay at home

It is astonishing the amount of *excitement* and agitation generated by apathy *at the moment*: it is all anyone wants to talk *about, all anyone* — finger up to the suspiciously still air — can detect. Press commentators claim it as the biggest story, and in doing so make it the biggest story. Worse, an already reluctant electorate is being cajolled into inattention, into a sneering, shoulder-shrugging negligence, simply by being, obscurely, applauded for it.

When a politically charged columnist with such a taste for the demotic flourish as Richard Littlejohn advises people not to vote on May 1, something is truly up.

Meanwhile, Bob Worcester, of MORI, is expecting the lowest turnout since the war and believes, having smashed birds on rocks and examined their entrails, that no more than 40 per cent of 18 to 25-year-olds will bother casting a vote. I can't say I'm surprised by this. Who could be?

Those who have a chance to vote for the first time have been making sure they let everybody know how bored



Nigella Lawson

they are by the idea for quite some time. At the very start of the campaign, I read an interview with one such non-voter. He droned on about how none of the parties had anything to say to him or his ilk, which is why he couldn't be bothered to vote for them — and then had the effrontery to moan self-pityingly about being "disenfranchised". That about sums it up as far as I'm concerned.

People like this should be treated with contempt, not listened with exaggerated shows of sympathy and interest. Look here, dimbo, I want to say: by refusing to vote you are disenfranchising yourself. It's your fault. The only consolation is that if people really are that stupid, then one should be grateful they aren't voting. By staying away from the polls, perhaps they are doing us all a favour. God knows, I don't want to have to pay politically for the half-baked, crass non-views of such idiots.

Nevertheless, I am prepared to accept that that is what democracy entails. But still, it's enough to turn me — for all my democratic beliefs — into a totalitarian despot. I can't help feeling that those who consider that by casting a vote they sully themselves are guilty of Crimes against Democracy.

People are divided as to what or who is to blame for such lack of political interest. For some it is the Tories, who have alienated whole tranches of society with their policies and wilfully exclusive focus, for others it is an opportunistic Labour Party, which by its vote-sniffing activities implicitly laughs in the face of real political commitment.

Both arguments contain some truth. Added to which, post-Thatcher Tory administrations have been keen to depict Conservatism as being above politics, while only Labour is pushing an agenda. Now, they've decided that there's no agenda, only an eye on the main chance, but it's a bit late to undo the damage. The idea that it is better to be unpolitical (itself an idea which, to be fair, has long found favour with the British), or that in eschewing displays of ideological commitment one is showing political maturity, is hard now to unseat.

But while some people hate the Right and others hate the Left, everyone hates the press: and that's where the blame is, self-destructively, sited by a number of commentators. To claim that the electorate is being turned off by the narrow, copy-led focus of the media campaign is to avoid the real issue. I am fed up with people trying to find reasons why people don't want to vote, as if there could be any excuse for it.

Yes, it is interesting to have explanation and yes, the unexamined life is *not* worth living, but in our haste to understand we are far too quick to forgive. The reasons people themselves give for not intending to vote are just as spurious. It is quite ridiculous for people to say that whether they vote or not, or who they'd vote for if they deigned to vote, wouldn't have any impact on their life. Of course it would. It may be that there is no one for whom one would ideally like to vote, but that's not quite the same thing. Democracy, anyway, is about compromise.

Perhaps we should forgive that apathetic army of 18-year-olds who seem to think that the only things in which it is worth evincing any interest are aerosols and animal rights, but I find it hard to do so. If they don't like the agenda of any political party, they are free to try to change it. And if they applied themselves for more than a second or two, it might dawn on them that a party's line on selective education might have more impact on their life than whatever it might spout about bunny rabbits in labs.

On the one hand, I am relieved that dreary, self-congratulatory, student-style activism has had its day, but on the other I worry about the narcissistic, narrow-minded indolence of vast numbers of people, by no means all of them under 20, who are no longer prepared to act or think about anything apart from which pair of trainers to buy, or what to watch on television.

Don't these people realise it is a luxury to be too bored to vote? I understand that vast tracts of society feel alienated by the political parties. But activity, not inactivity, is the answer. I don't say this lightly: depression, whether it's on a personal or more general level, can be paralysing. But we do all have a duty to try to create the sort of society we believe should exist — or why bother to do anything?

And it's no good moaning about which ever party gets in later and claiming that it's not your fault as *you* didn't vote for them: it will be your fault, absolutely your fault.

I don't believe that it should be mandatory to vote, as it is, say, in Australia, but I do fervently believe that there exists a moral obligation so to do. It is a weakness, a real ethical failure, not to grasp and act on that. But to boast about it on top of everything: that's despicable.

When pressure kills



GILL ALLEN

In the early years of their marriage, Barbara Hirst says her husband Terry was dynamic but his punishing work schedule as a GP caused depression, which led to suicide

More and more men are suffering from work-related stress — sometimes with tragic consequences, says **Grace Bradberry**

Despite the current fashion for talking of portfolio careers, with downshifting as the sensible person's ultimate aim, the pressure on those who have to work has never been greater. Downsizing and redundancy are spectres in everyone's lives, and for men in particular it seems that the pressure has never been greater.

Two recent studies by the Institute of Personnel and Development show that men suffer more stress than women at work, and a third study shows that the highest rate is among men aged 45 to 64.

Tonight, a BBC documentary* examines the cases of four men who could not take any more. The most tragic is that of Dr Terence Hirst, who had run a successful GP practice for 23 years. His wife Barbara



Desperate: Mr Hirst

— whom he married in 1970 — recalls how, in the early years of their marriage, a friend remarked that he was so dynamic that he could "set the Thames on fire". He was also a perfectionist.

But when fundholding was introduced in 1990, Dr Hirst felt compelled to take his practice into the new system, fearing that other practices would have the competitive edge if he waited.

"It was an insidious thing," says Mrs Hirst. "A year after the contract was implemented he was still basically happy, but there was a gradual erosion of self-esteem, self-worth. The demands were enormous.

"The workload was just astronomical and he was fed up with the volume of bureaucracy attached to the job. He was 50. He wanted to ease up a bit and instead of that he was actually doing more. He worked harder than he had when he first qualified.

"His health began to deteriorate from the summer of 1992 when we went away and he began to have physical manifestations of depressive illness."

In the evenings he would sit staring into the fire and fret about mistakes he thought he had made. In May 1994, Mrs Hirst persuaded her husband to visit his GP. He was surprised when he was diagnosed as suffering from depression. His wife tried to persuade him to stay off work and rest. "But he said, 'I don't know if I like you talking to me as though I should be a patient'. It was as though I were querying his professional acumen. But he was *dreadfully* ill."

Four days after he had begun taking medication, he left home at about 2.30pm. His wife thought he was going to the hospital, where one of his patients had been admitted. Nevertheless, she had a chilling sense of impending disaster.

"There was a dreadful foreboding. I didn't know what to do. One is filled with rescue fantasies. I should have rushed out after him and pulled the car keys away . . ."

Instead of going to the hospital, Dr Hirst had gone to the house of a gamekeeper who had been a patient. He said he was thinking of taking up shooting and asked to try out a gun. Not realising the doctor was depressed, the gamekeeper loaded two cartridges and allowed Dr Hirst to fire one into the air. Apparently satisfied, Dr Hirst followed the gamekeeper back into the house — but insisted on keeping the gun. As the gamekeeper walked upstairs, Dr Hirst went into the kitchen and shot himself.

That afternoon, Mrs Hirst made a series of increasingly desperate phone calls. She tried the hospital, then her husband's surgery, knowing he had appointments scheduled from 4.30pm. After several calls, the receptionist passed her to the practice manager. Mrs Hirst was told there had been "an accident".

Soon the house was full of policemen and doctors' wives. Her mother also came over. A young policeman, eyes red with distress, had to break the news to her formally. The worst moment came when the Hirsts' 15-year-old son Edward called to say he was on his way home from school.

"My voice must have been shaking, because he said, 'What has happened?' I said, 'Nothing, nothing'. When he got here, well that's the bit that really creases me now. His little face came in and there was just a sea of faces." Their daughter, now 24, was away at college.

Mrs Hirst has no doubt that it was the pressure of work that drove her husband to kill himself. "The week he died he'd worked 104 hours. It was punishing and awful at that age. The thing about depression is that you're expected to carry on working."

One of the saddest aspects is that Dr Hirst, who was 50 when he died, could have afforded to retire. "We'd talked all that through and he wanted very, very much to work part-time. Nothing really was stopping him. We were going to sell the house and he would step down from this rigorous, punishing lifestyle."

But his depressive illness took a grip before that was possible.

In Dr Hirst's case, his job clearly was highly stressful. But Alison Willox had no idea that her husband Ray was under great pressure as an executive officer with the Department of Social Security in Newcastle. "It used to be a joke in this house, 'How many pencils did you sharpen today?'," she recalls.

But a promotion and changes in the wages structure meant that Mr Willox found himself carrying out staff assessments. "He found them very difficult because how he judged people would then be reflected in their salaries," says Mrs Willox.

She realised her husband was becoming desperate when she discovered him in the kitchen holding a knife and asking how many fingers he would need to cut off never to have to return to work.

On May 2 1995, she returned home from her job as a shop assistant to find that her husband was not there. Assuming that he wanted some time alone, she waited before reporting him missing. When she did, the police showed a picture of Mr Willox to someone who had witnessed a man leap from a bridge. The witness thought it was Mr Willox, and it was not until three weeks later that the tide washed up the body, revealing it to be someone else.

Mrs Willox is still waiting for her husband, who would now be 58, to come home. "I think we lost him in those three weeks. I think he was waiting to see his picture on the television or the paper, for us to say 'come home, all is forgiven'." She now believes he will never return, despite repeated publicity drives.

"When I watch holiday programmes on the television I'm looking to see if he's part of the crowd," she says.

Although it was a second marriage for both of them, Mrs Willox remembers the man she married 20 years ago as "very outgoing and sociable . . . he made me feel I was 16 instead of 40.

"I blame his work for what happened."

● Brainstorm, *in the* Modern Times *series, will be shown tonight, at 9pm on BBC2*

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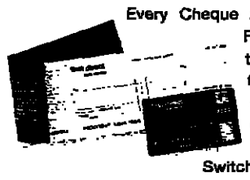
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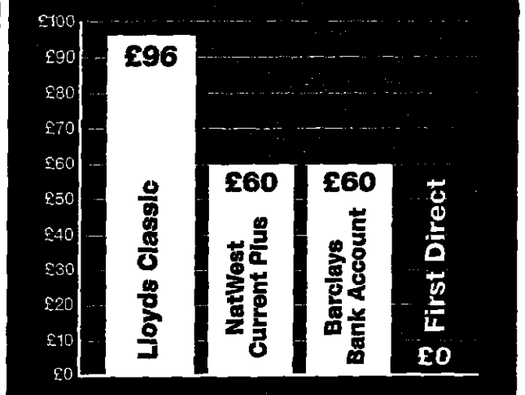
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Five years ago today, **John Major** won against the odds. Here he responds to those who think it is time for a change

My personal manifesto

The campaign had been long and hard. The polls were clear. The chattering classes and the press were full of anticipation. It was "time for a change". But it wasn't. Five years ago today, the Government was re-elected while in the middle of an economic trough. Since then it hasn't all been plain sailing. But stand back from the myths and look at the record.

The recession forced us into some difficult decisions. Taxes and interest rates rose as we chose long-term economic well-being over short term popularity. Now those decisions have brought their reward. Personal taxes are coming down. We have made Britain one of the lowest taxed economies in Europe. The Government's overall tax take is well below that of France, Germany and Italy.

Unemployment is falling fast. Since 1992, two jobs have been created every minute of every working day. Jobless levels in Britain are 900,000 lower than they were at our re-election, whereas across the Channel unemployment — particularly youth unemployment — is rising steadily.

Inflation is now on track for our target of 2.5 per cent. It was above 9 per cent when I became Prime Minister. Now Britain is enjoying the longest period of low inflation since I was old enough to vote.

Our industry is competitive and trade is soaring. This country is easily the favourite location for inward investment into Europe. We attract a third of inward investment into the EU. The result is growth that puts us well on the way to our own long-term goal: a doubling of living standards by the year 2020.

We have not been afraid to take tough decisions over the past five years. Rail privatisation was scarcely a popular move, but now it is bringing benefits to commuters up and down the country.

We have curbed the growth of public spending by concentrating on priorities, not bureaucracy and overmanning. Year on year, the Government has still found additional resources for the things that matter: schools, hospitals, the police. Labour claims that we are denying resources to essential services, but let us not forget that even allowing for inflation we are spending 75 per cent more on hospitals, 50 per cent more on schools and 100 per cent more on police than the last Labour Government. Now, as prosperity grows, I want us to build on our reforms to deliver even better public services.

Any party that has been in government for some years will be told it is "time for a change". They said it in 1992. They are saying it now. It may be true if the government has atrophied; if it has failed to come up with new ideas: if it seeks to hold office without innovating and reforming.

The Conservative Government has changed Britain, but it still has much to do. I want to take the benefits of Conservatism into every corner of this country. The sale of council houses and shares, the introduction of tax-free savings through Tessas and PEPs were not just isolated initiatives. They were, and are, key components of a systematic plan to turn "have nots" into "haves" and to share the wealth of Britain far more effectively than Labour's alternative of hand-outs and short-term subsidies.

Our plans for the welfare state will bolster social security with personal security. Our new basic pension for the next generation will not be a paper promise from the state, dependent on rising tax, but a real fund *belonging* to each individual. It will help young people entering the workforce to build up independence and self-reliance.

Our determination to achieve a 20p basic tax rate within the life of the next Parliament will help all hard-working individuals and families to pay their own way. And our proposal for transferable tax allowances will help two million families



bring up children, or care for elderly dependants, with more money to pay the bills when a wife — or husband — stays at home to look after them.

And alongside personal security, we must continue to invest in our modernised health service, and in wider educational opportunities. Good education will provide the rungs for the ladder which make "haves" of "have nots". Over the past five years we have driven through changes to raise standards in every school: tests, tables, independent inspection, better teacher training. Labour opposed them all.

We can now provide parents with a hard-edged guarantee of standards in schools — taking over from Labour councils where they stand in the way.

Labour is not a party that cares about equality and opportunity in any but a theoretical sense. As Labour's leaders drive their own children miles to grant-maintained schools, do they spare a thought for the appalling standards in the local schools run by Labour councils? It is not a lack of *funding* that has led to Islington's record. Islington spends far more on education than the average local authority. It is hypocrisy and indifference, the characteristics of the Labour Party in power — whatever its fine words in opposition.

In some respects, it is still time for change. We are that change. Over the 1980s and 1990s, the vast majority of Britons have enjoyed a greater leap in living standards than virtually any other people have ever experienced. Choice and opportunity are turning Britain into the best place in the world in which to live.

If you drive from one side of London to the other, you can tune in to 27 radio stations. Soon you will be able to receive 200 television channels. You can sip cappuccino in a pavement café or drink a pint of bitter in the pub on Sunday afternoon. You can go to the shops when it suits you and your family, and not just when the government decrees. You can buy sushi and exotic fruit at your local supermarket. You can eat out at cosmopolitan restaurants in villages that once lacked a fish-and-chip shop.

The key measures of education, health, work and personal wealth all show huge advances. The facts are dry statistics, but they mark real improvements in the quality of everyday life. There are four million more homeowners today than there were in 1979, of whom 1.5 million are former council tenants given the right to buy. One in three young people now goes to university, compared with one in eight in 1979. Hospital waiting-lists are well down, and life-expectancy is up from 70 to 74 for men and from 76 to nearly 80 for women.

Crime is down for the fourth successive year. It is now 10 per cent below 1992 levels — more than half a million fewer cases — the biggest drop since records were first kept. And since we were *last* told that this Government was about to lose an election, the average family has gained £1,100 more spending money a year after tax and inflation.

Eighteen years is nearly a lifetime in politics. Perhaps time to engender a mild curiosity: what would the other lot be like? But ask yourself these questions: are you better off than you were five years ago? And is the country better off too? The Labour Party has opposed every major change this Government has brought about. How then can the Labour Party ask people to trust it to carry these reforms forward? If Mr Blair has had a conversion, then, as Margaret Thatcher has said, it is a "conversion of convenience". And conversions of convenience do not last.

Indeed, just this week we've seen how quickly Labour policy can change when the questions get tough. In less than a week their Manifesto has unravelled on issue after issue — on Scottish devolution, on privatisation, on Europe, on terrorism, on trade unions. If they can change their ground so fast on issues like these, how can they expect anything in their Manifesto to be taken on trust?

I joined the Conservative Party because it offered people like me hope, opportunity and independence. It showed faith and trust in people. Today the Conservative Party deserves re-election not only for what it has achieved in the past five years, but for the long-term ambitions it still has for Britain.

So will local government ruin Blair as well?

In his electoral eagerness to avoid charges of fiscal perjury, the Labour leader has scuppered devolution

Simon Jenkins

Tony Blair is in metronome mode. His face, his hands, his whole body seem to be ticking off the days, the hours, the minutes, the seconds. The job is supposed to be in the bag, yet the candidate must go through ten interviews every day. Say anything, he is told, agree anything, just strike another day from the calendar.

I sense that Mr Blair's brain is starting to numb. He seems to have broken loose from his mooring and wandered to unknown lands. The British political psyche expects any party called Labour to be about unions, taxing the rich, helping the poor and loving the public sector. This distinguishes Labour from Tory. It helps us tell blue wires from brown, so we do not electrocute ourselves or blow the fuses on election day.

The wires in this election campaign are all over the place. Labour's latest *volte face*, on privatisation, like those on the unions and tax, leaves "new Labour" undefined. This movement, launched single-handed by Mr Blair three years ago, lacks history, roots and ideology. To have lost one policy might be considered a misfortune, to have lost them all looks deliberate. Is this Mr Blair real, we wonder. When old Labour vanished in a puff, did some alien power beam down a cohort of dark-suited clones, believing nothing and trained to speak only abstract nouns?

So far new Labour has enjoyed the protective shield of a *Star Wars* invader. The Tories, admittedly inept beyond credence, have shot peas at Mr Blair for six months. Last Friday, however, a chink in the shield appeared. The place was Scotland and the topic was our old friend, taxes.

"Fiscal perjury" is now considered permissible by democratic politicians the world over. "Watch my lips: no more taxes" has been a lie since it was coined by George Bush in 1988. The lie is a white one. The public likes to hear it, even knowing it to be untrue. Somehow the lie respects ritual and can be concealed with sophistries. The money will come from privatisation, or "greater efficiency", or that hoary favourite, "faster growth resulting from our policies". Since higher taxes now fall mainly on the poor, fiscal perjury is a conspiracy between the ruling classes and the middling rich.

In Scotland, Mr Blair was caught out. He was asked whether his plans for devolution did not mean the possibility of higher taxes after all. What about the "tartan tax", not to mention the "London tax" and the "Taffy tax"? Mr Blair had an obvious let-out. He could simply declare his passion for devolution and say that local taxes were a matter for local electors. As he did say, tax-raising powers were, after all, enjoyed by parishes in England — though he was roundly misquoted by fools with no appreciation of the paradox he was citing.

He did not exploit this let-out. Instead, he qualified his belief in devolution and added that Labour would oppose higher local taxes alongside higher national ones. He thus neglected what must surely be the leitmotif of his public spending strategy: tight central taxes relieved by rising local ones, the latter validated by Labour's belief in constitutional devolution. This is the one plausible, distinctive feature surviving of Labour's programme.

The central weakness of the Tory campaign is the growth in the tax burden since 1992. The principal reason for this is never discussed, because it is complicated and boring. Ever since Margaret Thatcher introduced the poll tax in 1990, Cabinets have felt obliged to give huge sums to local councils to compensate for the shambles they made of local government in the 1980s.

In the two poll tax years of 1990 and 1991, Chancellors John Major and Norman Lamont had to hurl £4 billion at local councils to hold down poll tax bills, with a further £1.5 billion in central costs. Mr Lamont had to find £4.5 billion in the election year of 1992 for the same purpose, raising VAT to 17.5 per cent to pay for it. Tony Travers and the LSE team have estimated that perhaps £20 billion was blown on the poll tax fiasco in just three years. These were huge sums.

What is not appreciated is that the fiasco has continued ever since. The Lamont election bribe was never reclaimed when council tax was introduced, lest that too should be unpopular. Britain saw a structural shift from local taxes to central ones. When Mr Major took office, local taxes contributed £12.2 billion a year towards the total tax bill. This figure is now just £10.4 billion, a drop of some £6 billion in real terms. Had they risen in parallel with other taxes, today's figure would probably be nearer £18 billion. Mr Major has cut local taxes by a third nationwide, balanced by a doubling of central grants to local councils. These sums dwarf such publicised items as emergency hospital beds or spouses' allowances or prison buildings.

A combination of fear and contempt for local government has thus prevented the Tories from entering this election with a basic rate of income tax of 20p or below. This is the prize they have denied themselves. This local tax-cutting profligacy has not brought the Tories an electoral return, whatever their hopes at the time. It has merely given the Cabinet and Treasury the buzz of wider control. Central taxes have had to rise to compensate. Nobody has cheered plummeting local taxes. The reward has been zero.

This may be history, but it is important history. For here lies a crock of gold for Mr Blair. Mr Major does not believe in returning fiscal accountability to local people. He believes that anyone else having tax-raising powers would "break up the Union" — though the Union survived Mr Major's tax-raising power when he was a Lambeth councillor. Mr Blair claims otherwise. He is committed to reversing the constitutional centralism of the Major years. He is on record as opposing rate-capping, seeks a London mayor and believes that a Scottish parliament should be able to levy taxes.

This return to the status quo *ante* Thatcher is no great radicalism. Mr Blair's devolution ought in theory to keep the Treasury's central budget under control but let local councils or assemblies choose to spend more on schools, clinics, roads, playgroups and public transport. To pay for these improvements, those bodies would have to account for the rates to their local electorates, as in most democracies in Europe and America. Central government need only make sure that the accountability "bites". Higher local taxes would be painful, but not so painful as higher central ones. With more councils turning Tory under a Labour government, Mr Blair would benefit in every way: rising council taxes could be blamed on local Conservatives, while he could hold his hands in the air and plead devolution. No more central taxes: no more central control. Read my lips.

In other words, Mr Blair has an easy escape from fiscal perjury, and one that happily conforms to his constitutional beliefs. Yet he is wobbling. He has already backed away from allowing a Scottish parliament to form its own view on taxation, demanding a spurious further referendum. He has not promised taxing powers to a Welsh or a London assembly, despite the importance of investment in the Tube to the role of the latter. More serious, Labour has backed down over rate-capping. Its manifesto reference is mendacious, promising to end "unnecessary" capping but to "retain reserve powers to control excessive council tax rises". This is precisely what capping is. The essence of local accountability is *not* to hold reserve powers in Whitehall. The essence is to make the pips squeak at the local ballot. That was to have been the virtue of the poll tax — the sole one.

I sense that Mr Blair is so keen to avoid the charge of fiscal perjury that he will commit constitutional perjury instead. He is so desperate *not* to countenance any tax rises, even local ones, that he will keep in place the Tory centralist apparatus he has pledged to dismantle. He wants this in place to keep down spending and to keep restive local Labour councils in check. Which leads me to wonder what kind of Labour this man represents.

The irony is that, as the Tory experience shows, centralising taxes does not reduce them. The more distant the taxer from the taxed, the faster taxes tend to rise. This means that by refusing to allow local tax discretion, Mr Blair will risk not one perjury but two. Local government did for Margaret Thatcher by seducing her into the community charge catastrophe. It has done for Mr Major by forcing him to put up central taxes. Who knows what horrors it has in store for Mr Blair?



Balti ho!

MONDAY night saw the Prime Minister and his team in relaxed form, snapping the poppadoms in a Birmingham curry house. After coming down from the Grand National by helicopter, the PM and his entourage piled in to JJay's, a balti house in Unit 213 of Edgbaston Shopping Centre. It is the fourth time John Major has been to the restaurant in the past year.

Having arrived with his wife, his PPS, John Ward, and a couple of bodyguards, he ordered spicy poppadoms, chicken madras — a change from his usual lamb curries — and iced Indian lager to drink.

"We were starving," said one of the campaign team, "we'd only had a packed lunch and some superior homemade biscuits at teatime. By nine o'clock when we arrived everybody was ready for a curry." Also in the restaurant, by chance, were the BBC's *Call My Bluff* production team, who were summoned for a chinwag over the bhajis.

The Prime Minister and curries go back a while. His favourite Indian in London has always been Gandhi's in Kennington, near the Oval cricket ground. On his tours of the country, after a long day's business, he is known to stand up clap his hands and say "Curry!" — whereupon his bodyguards accept that the PM and his team march chutneywards.

Sadly in retreat is the John Major Lamb Curry Club, founded a couple of years ago to celebrate Major's asbestos mouth. According to Sir Rhodes Boyson, a founder member, "it was one of those things that came and went". Unlike the PM's own liking for tongue burners. Yesterday he was back at the curry tray for lunch with Asian businessmen at Edgbaston cricket ground.



"I'm fed up with the SWP. I'm joining the C of E"

THE TIMES DIARY

Hawn billing

DISPLAYING an enthusiasm for Middle Eastern history that she had hitherto kept to herself, Goldie Hawn was the star turn at the launch in London of *From the Holy Mountain*, by the travel writer William Dalrymple.

Pressed on her knowledge of the Byzantine period, the subject of the book, Goldie tossed her famous locks and giggled girlishly: "Oh yes, it's fun." Inspiration for her newfound interest in the area would have come from the man on whose arm she rested for the evening: Charles Glass, the smoulderingly handsome journalist, who accompanied her to a Kensington restaurant after the event.

Kohl scuttle

OVER AT the far-right Tory Monday Club, they have been cracking heads to come up with an election advertising campaign. Maurice Saatchi's role has been taken by their president, Viscount Massereene and Ferrard — full name John David Clotworthy Whyte-Melville Foster Skeffington, "Skeffers" for short.

Among the ideas put forward by the anti-European mob was a picture of Chancellor Kohl's bottom, with the words "Kiss arse or kick arse", to represent the choice respectively between Labour and Conservative. "I thought it would have looked pretty good," says Skeffington, whose own suggestion was to depict Kohl in a coal-scuttle helmet — "but you've got to maintain some dignity I suppose." The final choice is a simple close-up of Kohl's face with the line "Do you want to make this man's day? If so, vote Labour".

"It may not do much good," says Skeffers, "but it makes us laugh."



Goldie shimmering

Last hippies

ALLEN GINSBERG'S friends gave the late beatnik and convention-basher — who died last week aged 70 — the sort of funeral he would have loved.

Some 250 ageing fans assembled at New York's Shambhala Meditation Centre, shed their shoes, and, with the occasional creak, tucked their legs into the lotus position for a lengthy ceremony, half of it in Tibetan. An altar was bedecked in fruit and rice, with incense and candles burning. Mantra chanters included Lou Reed, Patti Smith, Kurt Vonnegut and Laurie Anderson. "No eyes, no sense, no pain," they cried.

The coffin was draped with a white silk flag, and the congregants "sent and received" — jargon, apparently, for exhaling and thus "sending our compassion to the person who has died before we breathe in to swallow any fear the person may be experiencing, being out of the body for the first time". As one ex-hippie put it.





Patti Smith: one of the friends who saw off Allen Ginsberg

● *Executive decisions are flying thick and fast from the office of Tory Party chairman Brian Mawhinney. His latest memo concerns breakfasts taken by staff at Central Office: cereals such as Rice Krispies, Sugar Puffs and nut-crunching muesli are acceptable; the full English, however, should be discouraged. Fitness during the election campaign is paramount — staff are being encouraged to take vitamin pills.*

P·H·S

MOTES AND BEAMS

The Church has proved a better witness than advocate

In a campaign where moral questions have been more often directed to how Conservative MPs are employed in their spare time than how the unemployed can be provided with better use of their time, the intervention of the Joint Council of Churches is a welcome invitation to serious thought. Although the economy is growing and new jobs are created daily, unemployment in Britain is still unacceptably high. Politicians are competing for the votes of a fickle aspirant minority of floating voters in constituencies distant, physically and emotionally, from poverty. The Church has a duty to bear uncomfortable witness to the scale of want at a time of national self-examination. Historic precedent, a sense of mission and the presence of the clergy in urban areas from which other professionals have fled should all equip the Church to speak the truth to power. It is all the more a pity that yesterday's report from the Joint Council, *Unemployment and the Future of Work*, should undermine its own authority with policy prescriptions neither economically wise nor ethically courageous.

The Church has a proud tradition of social engagement in the face of complacency from middle Britain. From Wesley to Temple there was a commitment to the poor but, more than that, a recognition that it was by the prompting of conscience, not coercion, that virtue and justice would flourish. That tradition has not, however, in recent years been properly nurtured.

The 1984 Church of England report *Faith in the City* tried to draw attention to some of the strains on the nation's cohesion that Margaret Thatcher's modernisation of Britain brought. It was however a work which owed more to the sociology lecture theatre than the Methodist chapel. *Unemployment and the Future of Work* is a more thoughtful contribution to the debate but it still labours under the weight of accumulated misconceptions about the capacity of the State to build Jerusalem.

The report's recommendations are for the most part either idle, or actively counter-productive. The proposed introduction of a statutory minimum wage would mean higher unemployment as firms shed more expensive labour in order to remain competitive. Plans to increase tax to create more jobs in the public sector are Pyongyang politics and Albanian economics. Increasing taxation is not an exercise in virtue, but compulsion. Taking wealth away from the productive part of the economy would make its expansion less likely. That would inhibit the growth on which decent public services and a satisfactory welfare state rely.

The Churchmen who would be Chancellor are also guilty of pointing to the mote in the politician's eye while ignoring the beam in their own. Scholars from Charles Murray to Gertrude Himmelfarb and the ethical socialist Norman Dennis have drawn compelling links between the growth in poverty and a generation's flight from ethical responsibility. The best route out of dependency is through hard work, thrift, and family stability. State action far from supporting these qualities, has been a solvent of virtue with the tax and benefits system insulating individuals from the consequences of foolish choices.

Rather than asking the State to act, the Church should be looking to scripture and tradition for the moral lessons which individuals should follow. It should advance not only precepts for the poor, but exhortations to genuine philanthropy from others. That spirit is best expressed, however, through voluntary action rather than at the bidding of leviathan. The Church is right to argue a society as sophisticated as ours should not tolerate want on the current scale but it should have more faith in its faith as the answer.

CLOSED FOR BUSINESS

Much politics but little government in Washington DC

Spring has come to the American capital but its process of government is in deep hibernation. Six months after his re-election Bill Clinton holds power without a programme. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has all but disappeared from public view. The various Democratic Party fundraising scandals have produced political paralysis. Every potential appointee risks intense scrutinity of his or her role in the 1996 contest. Dozens of key assignments at home and abroad remain unfilled as a consequence. The White House spends most weeks fending off fresh allegations of financial malpractice while filling its time with foreign visitors.

Congress returned on Monday after taking a two-week break for Easter. It has barely been in session during 1997. This is hardly accidental. Newt Gingrich, who acknowledged serious ethics violations of his own and accepted a $300,000 fine rather than risk outright censure, has struggled to survive as Speaker. His approval rating rarely exceeds 25 per cent. Keeping Congress out of town and out of trouble is central to his comeback strategy. He, too, has embraced international affairs — in this case berating the Chinese leadership in Beijing — as part of his salvation. The sheer vigour represented by the *Contract with America* two years ago has vanished almost entirely.

Government may have ground to a halt but politics is ceaseless. With 34 months left until the next primary season starts, the main contenders are already in position. Vice-President Albert Gore and House Minority leader Richard Gephardt, the chief rivals for the Democratic party nomination, have each graced Iowa and New Hampshire. At least a dozen Republicans have made their initial moves. Lamar Alexander, the former Governor of Tennessee who visited Iowa on 80 occasions in his last campaign, has been back six times. The mutual exhaustion in Washington affects both parties but has different sources.

Mr Clinton asked for a second term but never offered an ambitious agenda. His spin-doctors sought to discover what citizens thought and then repeated it back to them. Mr Gingrich, on the other hand, suffered from an excess of agenda. He tried to rewrite most of 20th-century American history in 100 days and overreached himself in the effort. Republicans cannot agree upon their objectives let alone how they might push their plans past the President. In the absence of a coherent choice they have concentrated on the difficulties affecting Mr Clinton.

There is a wider problem that affects all sides and one that appears to leave them clueless. A broadly benign economy and the absence of an external enemy seem to have sucked the lifeblood out of politics. Liberals and conservatives alike cannot persuade the electorate to accept bold experimentation. Mr Clinton's drive for comprehensive health care reform lost all impetus once the country emerged from recession. The *Contract with America* ran out of steam because Congress could not generate the sense of crisis necessary to render it essential. The Democrats now possess no collective ideological identity whatsoever. The Republicans still have one but no clear idea how to advance it.

This drift speaks volumes about a superpower without a mission and statesmen without a mandate. But there are warnings here that go well beyond Washington. Tony Blair has adapted the idea of a contract from Mr Gingrich and adopted much of its content from Mr Clinton. He may well benefit from that formula at the ballot box. The American example, though, does not currently suggest that a combination of magisterial method and modest means alone will seem quite so compelling six months later.

TINDERBOX BRITAIN

Man must adapt to the vagaries of the weather

April seedlings are withered and dry, boats are left high on the mudflats beside the Thames, fires are sweeping the West Country as arson and carelessness take their toll on tinderbox Britain. April with his showers sweet would, in Chaucer's day, pierce the drought of March to the root; now this cruellest of months is prolonging the pain of a parched land. January was the driest on record, with a little over half an inch of rain compared with an average of 3½ in. In February more rain fell than usual, but March was one the seven driest this century. Rivers are down to less than a third of their average flow. Frogspawn is drying out in shrinking ponds. Voles are endangered as their riverbank homes disappear. Crops and livestock are threatened, and for the third year running Britain will face water shortages and hosepipe bans. Are seven lean years settling over Britain?

To those in southeast England, the outlook is certainly grim. Underground aquifers are almost dry. Hoverflies, crested newts, moorhens and water crowfoot are disappearing; cuckooflower and snakeshead fritillary could be lost for ever. The gentle rain, so typical of an English spring and so vital to nature, the environment and the economy, has been driven away by persistent high pressure. The water companies are warning of permanent restrictions and city planners are questioning the old assumptions that domestic supplies would always be plentiful. There is talk of building emergency pipelines, using the canal network to bring water south and even setting up desalination plants on the south coast.

Global warming is the spectre behind the scenario of a future Britain with the climate of Spain. Scientists and meteorologists cannot produce firm figures, but there is enough evidence on carbon emissions, energy use and the greenhouse effect to give a frightening pattern to many of the trends that have made global weather so peculiar. Why are the winds across the Atlantic no longer blowing predictably? Winter storms are now marked by frequent gales. Countries which are normally dry have been inundated, while others have had no rain.

The weather cannot be changed; man must adapt. Already, gardeners are advised to buy Mediterranean plants and leave their lawns unsprinkled. Architects must design cisterns that need less water, planners must look to supplies before they authorise new housing, and industry must curb its profligacy. The water companies must invest heavily to plug their leaks. Wildlife must fend for itself, but vandals who deliberately set fire to the dry moorlands and forests must be pursued and punished with the full vigour of the law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Wise use of water in time of drought

From Ms Jean Mcleod Forbes

Sir, The Water Services Association states in its current publication, *Water — Meeting the Challenge*: "We will ensure that, in times of drought, rota cuts and stand-pipes in England and Wales remain a thing of the past" and "We will manage our water resources so as to protect wetlands and improve low-flow rivers."

In view of the continuing drought, it would be enlightening if they and the other representative body, the Water Companies Association, could assure us that they are taking positive steps to ensure the future availability of water in all areas.

It is obvious that we cannot continue to abstract from depleted rivers. In addition, spokesmen for the water authorities are wont to imply that heavy rain, when it does occur, falls in the wrong places.

The philosophy of market forces would dictate that those who have the resources are in a position to supply to those with the demand, thus entailing a measure of cross-company transfer by pipeline and payment by the purchasing company to the supplying company at an agreed rate.

As a committed shareholder in my local water company I believe that metering will have to be introduced on a national and progressive basis. To ensure a degree of social justice, and to avoid penalising those on lowest incomes, use should be made of charging bands, thus penalising those customers whose usage is much greater than average. This would encourage the consumer to use water wisely.

Flexibility and optimisation in the distribution of water is more important than the facility to buy water from different companies. It is now expedient that the worst-case scenario be confronted.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN MCLEOD FORBES,
93 Stonebury Avenue,
Eastern Green,
Coventry, Warwickshire.
April 4.

Italy and Albania

From Mr Nick Lynam

Sir, Your leading article, "Rethink for Rome" (April 2), deserved a sterner response than the polite, well-reasoned and justified defence of Italian policy on Albania by the chairman of the Italian Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and others (letter, April 5). I have a more down to earth and objective view of your puny message.

Albania is on the doorstep of Europe. Something positive has to be done. First Italy, and now reluctantly Europe as a whole, are trying to work something out for the good of Europe and Albania.

What I find difficult to accept in your leader is the unhelpful, negative and cynical approach. Have you no positive suggestion to offer about this terribly dangerous situation? Is the UK far enough distant to turn a blind eye hoping the problem will go away, like the former Yugoslavia?

Action is needed here and in my view it has to be long-term, with the objective of restoring law and order, leading to peaceful and democratic elections.

Yours faithfully,
NICK LYNAM,
43 Rue du Maréchal Foch,
67000 Strasbourg.
April 6.

Lottery and the Church

From Mr Oliver Lever

Sir, "Carey appeals for lottery funds" runs a headline in today's *Times*.

At their autumn session in 1950, the Church Assembly reaffirmed the resolution passed *nem con* at the autumn session in 1932, namely:

That this Assembly views with grave anxiety the great evils caused by betting and gambling, and earnestly hopes the Royal Commission now sitting may devise effective means of checking incitements to betting and the exploitation of the gambling instinct for private profit or for charitable institutions.

The Church of England, it seems, is vying with the Labour Party in a race to ditch principles.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER LEVER,
Blackacre,
Back Lane,
Malvern, Worcestershire.
April 7.

Level golf course

From Mr H. J. Balderson

Sir, You report on golf clubs missing out on lottery money because of sexism (April 2).

I am very much in favour of true equality, ie, everyone to pay the same fees, play off the same tees, be assessed by the same handicap system with an identical handicap upper limit; each hole to have only one par and stroke index, and no one to receive "courtesy shots".

But please keep the showers separate.

Yours sincerely,
H. J. BALDERSON,
48 Coombe Drive,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire.
April 2.

Public v private funding for the arts

From Lord Lloyd-Webber and others

Sir, Each day your extensive Arts section understands and supports the importance of regional theatre in this country. How sad it is that your leading article of April 3 stands in such stark contrast.

For decades successive governments and local authorities have financially supported regional theatre. This support recognises the vital function regional theatre fulfils in this country. Many of our finest actors, playwrights and directors would not be where they are today without regional theatre.

Your implication that continued local authority funding for the arts is no longer viable is dangerous. We agree that those who have done well out of the theatre should plough funds back, and many do. However, to rely only on the few able to do so would starve the theatre of new talent, new writing and creative risk. Both political parties' manifestos, in their own ways, recognise this and espouse continued support for the long-established principle of public funding for the arts.

We believe that your comments on Alan Ayckbourn are unwarranted. He has willingly passed up the opportunity to have the Scarborough theatre named after him, in spite of having made a substantial contribution to its building costs. Furthermore, although Ayckbourn plays staged at the Stephen Joseph Theatre make up only one sixth of its annual repertoire, he has served as the theatre's artistic director since 1970 without ever having taken a salary. He also volunteers a royalty payment back to the Stephen Joseph Theatre from each and every one of his plays. His contribution to Scarborough and to theatre in this country is immense.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER,
MICHAEL CODRON,
RICHARD EYRE,
ROBERT FOX,
JULIA McKENZIE,
ADRIAN NOBLE,
DUNCAN WELDON,
10 Eaton Mews South, SW1.
April 7.

From Mr John Simpson

Sir, Mr Henry Burke, artistic director of the Norwich Theatre (letter, April 4), appears to be shocked at the suggestion that Sir Alan Ayckbourn should dig deeper into his own pocket to save the Stephen Joseph Theatre. But don't we all do just this with our own pet projects? After all, Sir Alan expects us to do just that when he appeals to the public for donations.

Mr Burke's comment that librarians and firemen are not expected to pay to provide their services struck a chord. My daughter has a learning disability and attends a day centre run by social services. One day a week she works in a unit which provides buffets on a commercial basis: for this she receives 40 pence per day.

Due to cuts in the social services budget she is now expected to pay social services 80 pence per day for the privilege of making sandwiches, washing up, etc. I suppose it would be a consolation to her, if she could understand the politics, should she be asked personally to pay £1.20 to help keep Sir Alan's dream alive.

It is no use tinkering with the system. The Stephen Joseph has received a subsidy from the people of Scarborough via a grant from the borough council. The cut in question relates to a separate subsidy via the county council. The county council grant releases further funding from the Arts Council and goodness knows where else.

This devious method of funding should be stopped and replaced by one source of subsidy. It raises my hackles when blackmail is used to obtain funding, playing off one source of funding against another.

Sir Alan Ayckbourn lost my support when he threatened to close the theatre at the first hurdle, but it appears to have done the trick.

Perhaps now hospital managers, school governors, etc, can see how the system works and will threaten to close their services at the first sign of cutbacks.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SIMPSON,
62 Pasture Lane, Seamer,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.
April 4.

Choices in childbirth

From the Editor of Midwifery Matters

Sir, On March 28 you published a letter from a university professor of obstetrics linking the rising Caesarean rate with fear of litigation; on March 27 you reported that the Court of Appeal had affirmed the *status quo* that competent women should not be given medical intervention against their will; today you publish a letter from two lawyers worried about the competency loophole in the law lords ruling; and on March 19 you reported the Audit Commission's worries about costs of the rising Caesarean section rate.

All is not well on the childbirth front and Caesarean section is only the tip of the iceberg, representing the most extreme form of medical intervention in childbirth.

Women's voices have been heard: their needs are simple, they want to be listened to, they want to be treated with kindness. Baroness Cumberlege's excellent report, *Changing Childbirth* (1993), backed them up. It said that women should be treated as individuals, they should be cared for by someone they know, they should be given information about alternative treatments so they can choose care appropriate to their needs.

But it is proving extremely difficult to change childbirth. While many NHS trusts have piloted "Know Your Midwife" schemes and found them effective and popular with women, all too often the schemes are shelved because they are "too expensive" or have led to totally exhausted midwives. Hospitals are failing to distribute *Informed Choice* leaflets designed to enable mothers to make wise decisions.

The anonymous labour-ward midwife still cares for most women in labour — and is often rushed off her feet trying to give continuity of care to two or three women at once. It is cheaper and easier to monitor babies electronically, to give women drugs and epidurals to dull the pain. This style of care saves on labour-ward midwives' salaries, but it transfers the costs to the operating theatre and fills the post-natal wards with distressed women who have difficulty adjusting to motherhood.

Is it not the ultimate irony that, having reached the point when childbirth has never been safer for mother and baby, we are still unable to see it as anything more than the extraction of a live baby from a live mother and to hell with the physical and emotional damage done to the luckless patients?

Our maternity services need a radical rethink. Somehow we have to find a way to put the humanity back into childbirth, to respect pregnant women and give them the luxury of being supported in labour by a midwife they already know.

Let us resurrect our maternity services from an unacceptable limbo. Let us nurture the souls of our mothers and babies, not just their bodies.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET JOWITT,
Editor, Midwifery Matters,
Walford Lodge, Walford,
Craven Arms, Shropshire.
March 29.

Calm before the rage?

From Mr David T. Staples

Sir, You report today that road rage is a "middle class crime".

Has any research been conducted to examine whether there is any correlation between the increase in road rage and the growth of traffic-calming measures? The ever-increasing numbers of sleeping policemen, chicanes, road-blocks and similar devices are almost guaranteed to bring on rage in all classes.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID T. STAPLES,
11 St Luke's Church,
42 Mayfield Road, N8.
April 4.

Joys of the road

From Mr John Mendes

Sir, When I gave up my MGB for transport more suited to my years, I had to accept anonymity on the roads. No more the friendly wave of the hand, or the flashing of lights, as I met another "B", and no longer the enthusiasm shown if both cars were the same colour and of a similar year.

It was a delightful club and, as a matter of interest, many of the passing drivers who waved were women. Perhaps Ms Maureen Colquhoun (letter, April 3) was one of them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MENDES,
1 Lower Street, Cavendish, Suffolk.

Taking the rap

From Dr Ian Olson

Sir, For over forty years it has been known that the "bad" poet William McGonagall based his unusual verse forms on the Scots/Irish "Come-all-ye" folk ballad tradition of his Edinburgh childhood. Sing them in that style and all becomes clear.

American rap singers of his ever-popular poetry (report, April 3) thus have more understanding than their pompous, pontificating and patronising professors.

Yours faithfully,
I. A. OLSON,
20 Burns Road, Aberdeen.
April 4.

Soaking up science

From Mr R. D. Vernon

Sir, Contemplating the ludicrous goings-on of the "jogging scientists" and their relative wetness (letters, March 27, April 1, 4, 7), it occurred to me that my late Lancashire grandmother would have summed them up as follows: "They're too daft to come in out of the rain."

Yours faithfully,
R. D. VERNON,
40 St John's Hill,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Poor rewards for speech therapists

From Mrs Maeve Creber

Sir, Congratulations to Professor Pamela Enderby, the Bristol speech therapist who has fought for 11 years for equal pay for women professionals in the National Health Service. Yesterday, at an industrial tribunal in Croydon, the Government conceded her case.

Having had two careers, I am well placed to compare the nature of the work, the professional status and the remuneration of each. First, I trained and worked as a speech therapist for ten years, specialising in brain-damaged children. I worked in several major hospitals. Then, after the necessary study, research and experience, I became a university teacher of English literature.

Discussion of 19th and 20th-century poetry with intelligent people, though not without its stresses and frustrations, is hardly arduous and usually pleasurable. Coaxing the often severely damaged brain to reorganise itself towards learning or relearning language, both in terms of comprehension and expression, takes immense skill, experience, a lot of faith and limitless patience.

To face the condition of the patients and the distress and anxiety of their parents and relatives, and to do this every day, is not only arduous, but seriously emotionally demanding, no matter how detached one tries to become. Yet for this work, were I to return to it, I would be paid just less than half as much as for university teaching.

I am in the fortunate position of being able to help one or two children without making any charge, but most speech therapists cannot do this. I am amazed that there are still 7,000 people, predominantly women, in this country prepared to take on such ill-rewarded work. Let us hope that because of Pamela Enderby's struggle, things will change.

Yours sincerely,
MAEVE CREBER,
13 Russell Terrace,
Exeter, Devon.
April 4.

Battlefield heritage

From Mr S. W. Martin

Sir, You report (April 7) the controversy over the proposal to build houses on the battlefield of Tewkesbury. There were similar problems with the Shrewsbury battlefield.

In our case it was Shropshire County Council who, as landowners, initially wanted to sell the field for industrial development in the late 1980s.

Fortunately English Heritage intervened and added Shrewsbury to its register of battlefields, thus ensuring its preservation, since historic sites in Shropshire are protected under planning policy. I am surprised that the same appears not to be the case in Tewkesbury.

As a result of a management study by English Heritage, it is now more fully realised than previously that our field is an important part of the town's medieval heritage and an asset for recreation and education as well as attracting visitors.

As with Tewkesbury, so here the battlefield boundaries could not be clearly defined almost 600 years later. This does not matter. The important thing is that the largest possible area of what on historical evidence is thought to be the battlefield site should be retained as open land for the benefit of future generations.

Yours faithfully,
S. W. MARTIN
(Chairman,
Shrewsbury and Atcham Branch,
Council for the Protection of
Rural England),
Bear Steps Office,
St Alkmond's Square,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
April 7.

Farmers and hedges

From Mrs Anne Hudson

Sir, Mr James Crosbie Dawson asserts that he can farm more effectively without hedges (letter, April 5).

Whilst it is true that landowners who enjoy country sports are likely to encourage the growth of hedges and copses as cover for game and wildlife, hedges also provide valuable protection and windbreaks to livestock and also provide against soil erosion.

I have seen at first hand the damaging effect the lack of hedgerows has caused to arable land belonging to my own family.

Without hedges Mr Crosbie Dawson could eventually have no land to farm.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE HUDSON,
60 Cranmore Gardens,
Aldershot, Hampshire.
April 6.

Roles reversed

From Mr T. R. Marshall

Sir, How refreshing, in these troubled times, to find a member of the aristocracy winning the Grand National on a horse called "Dobbin".

Yours faithfully,
T. R. MARSHALL,
27 Waldemar Avenue, SW6.
April 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 8: The Queen held a Council at 12.00 noon.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Viscount Cranborne (Lord Privy Seal), the Baroness Blatch (Minister of State, Home Office) and the Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler MP (Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office).

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Luncheon Party at Windsor Castle for members of the Order of Merit at which The Princes Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present.

The following had the honour of being invited: Sir Isaiah and Lady Berlin, Sir George Edwards and Mrs Angela Jeffreys, the Reverend Professor and Mrs Owen Chadwick, Sir Andrew and Lady Huxley, Dr and Mrs Frederick Sanger, the Lord and Lady Menuhin, Professor Sir Ernst and Lady Gombrich, Dr and Mrs Max Perutz, Dame Cicely Saunders, Professor the Lord and Lady Porter, the Lady Thatcher and Sir Denis Thatcher, Bt, Dame Joan Sutherland, Sir Michael and Lady Atiyah, the Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Dame Jennifer Jenkins, Sir Aaron and Lady Klug, Sir John Gielgud and Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit).

Mrs Robert de Pass has succeeded the Hon Lady Morrison as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 8: The Duke of York today visited Hampshire and was received by Mr Nicholas Jonas (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire).

His Royal Highness this morning visited George Gale and Company Limited, Brewers, and opened a new building at Horndean, Southampton.

The Duke of York this afternoon toured Apollo Fire Detectors Limited, Havant.

His Royal Highness, Patron, later visited the Jubilee Sailing Trust, Jubilee Yard, Woolston, Southampton.

The Duke of York this evening attended a Dinner on board *SS Canberra*, Southampton, to mark the ship's retirement and to commemorate the Fifteenth Anniversary of the commissioning of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company vessels for the Falklands Campaign.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 8: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, Canadian Forces Medical Service, today received Major-General J.W.B. Barr, Colonel Commandant.

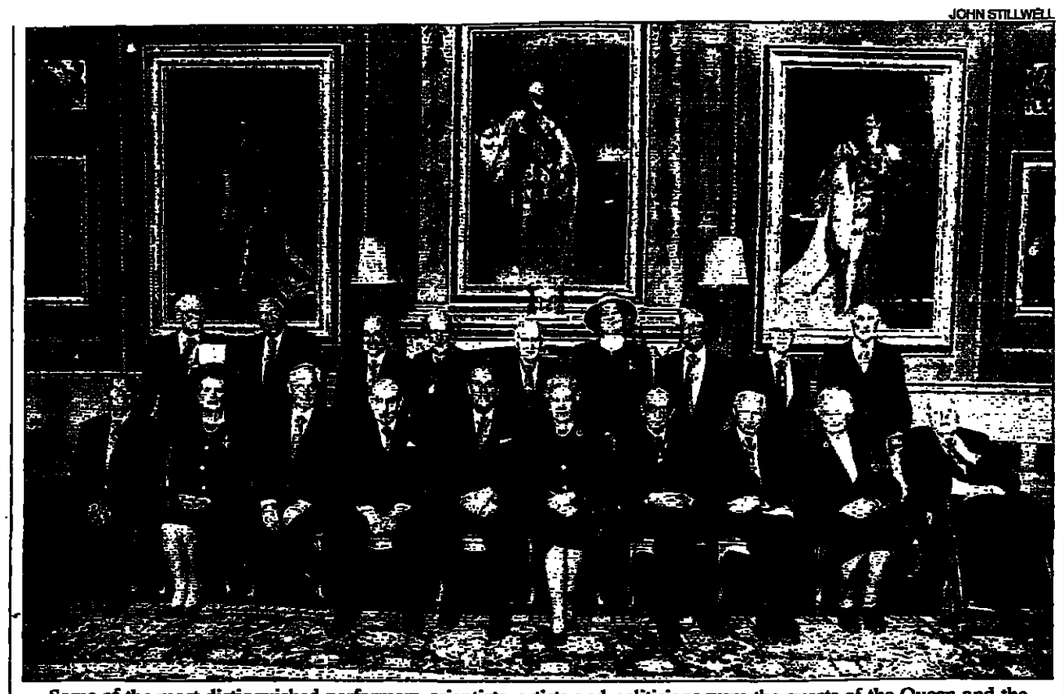
KENSINGTON PALACE
April 8: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, this morning presented The Sovereign's Award to Miss Elaine Taylor at Kensington Palace.

The Duchess of Gloucester today opened the new Operations Building at Warrington Police Station and afterwards opened the new St John Headquarters at Warrington Hospital. Later Her Royal Highness opened the new Brow County Primary School, Runcorn, Cheshire.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a Dinner given by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and Mrs Dong-Jin Choi at the Korean Residence, 28 Parkside, London SW19.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 8: The Duke of Kent, Honorary Air Chief Marshal, this morning visited Royal Air Force Stafford Supply Depot, Beacaside, Staffordshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire (Mr James Hawley).

JOHN STILLWELL



Some of the most distinguished performers, scientists, artists and politicians were the guests of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a luncheon party for members of the Order of Merit at Windsor Castle yesterday. Standing (left to right), Sir John Gielgud, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Sir Michael Atiyah, Dr Max Perutz, Lord Menuhin, Dame Joan Sutherland, Lord Porter, Sir Aaron Klug, Sir Edward Ford (Secretary of the Order of Merit); seated (left to right), Dr Frederick Sanger, Lady Thatcher, the Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, Sir George Edwards, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen, Sir Isaiah Berlin, Sir Andrew Huxley, Dame Cicely Saunders, Sir Ernst Gombrich

Reception

H M Government
Mr Anthony Nelson, Minister for Trade, was the host at a reception given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House to mark the 1997 General Meeting of the Berne Union.

Luncheon

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at City Hall in honour of Mr Sydney F. Sporle.

Lecture

Second Nathan Lecture on the Environment
Professor Gordon Conway, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex, delivered the Second Nathan Lecture on the Environment last night at the Royal Society of Arts in honour of Lord Nathan. The hosts were Denton Hall's Environmental Law Team and Sir Richard Southwood presided.

Pattenmakers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Pattenmakers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Ian Scarr Hall; Upper Warden, Mr Richard Paice; Renter Warden, Mr R.P. Ziff; Warden to the Trade, Mr R.A. Kottler.

Appointments

Mr Robin Christopher to be Ambassador to Indonesia later this month in succession to Mr Graham Burton who is moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Air Vice-Marshal Clive Evans, Colonel Geoffrey Godbold and Major Barnaby Cockroft to be Deputy Lieutenants of Greater London.

Lord Saatchi and Sir Idris Pearce have been appointed to the Council of the Royal College of Art.

Sir Hugh Leggatt has become a trustee of Lord Lloyd-Webber's Art Foundation.

Memorial services

Mr Michael Saunders

The Lord Chancellor was present at a memorial meeting for the life of Mr Michael Saunders, HM Procurator General, Treasury Solicitor and Queen's Proctor, held yesterday in Lincoln's Inn Hall.

Mrs Anna Saunders, widow, Miss Penelope Saunders, daughter, Mr Joss Saunders, son, Mr Richard Saunders, brother, and Mr Christopher Mansell were the speakers. Mr Nicholas Cartledge, flute, and Mr Andy Cartledge, piano, played during the service.

The Master of the Rolls, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General attended. Among others present were:

Mrs Doris Saunders (mother), Mrs Richard Saunders (sister-in-law), Mr David Saunders, Miss Deborah Saunders, Professor Robert and Dr Barbara Cohen, Mr Adrian Cohen, Dr Leslie Culank, Mrs J Culank, Miss A Culank, Mr Leslie Jackson, Mr and Mrs David Jarvis, Miss Primrose Orgel, Mr and Mrs Anthony Proctor, Mr and Mrs Nigel Proctor, Mr L Saunders, Mrs Andrew Sliver, Mr and Mrs Donald Thomson, Mr and Mrs Peter Tratt.

Lord Borrie, QC, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Lord Justice and Lady Kennedy, Sir Michael Kerry, Mrs Justice Arden, Mr Justice Hidden, Mr Justice Laws, Mr Justice Moses, Sir Thomas Legg, QC, Sir John Bailey, Sir Frank Berman, Sir Patrick Brown, Sir Terence Burns, Sir Robin Butler, Sir Henry de Waal, Lady Dyson, Sir Allan Green, Sir Basil Hall, Sir Gerald Hosker, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, Sir James and Lady Nursaw, Sir William Reid, Sir Barry Shaw, QC, Sir David Spedding, Sir Brian and Lady Unwin, Sir Richard Wilson, Judge and Mrs Roger Cox, Judge David Pearl.

Mr David Bentley, Mr Michael Bichard, Miss Christine Bowker, Mr Geoffrey Bowman, Mrs Ann Bowtell, Mr Henry Boyd-Carpenter, Rabbi Dr Sydney Brichto, Mr and Mrs John Bones, Mr and Mrs Chris Brighton, Mrs Rosemary Bull, Mr Ian Burns, Mr Geoffrey Butt, Mr Edward Caldwell, Mr Mike Calloway, Mr John Carlile, Mr Kevin Chamberlain, Mr Brian Cleave, Mrs Geraldine Courtney, Professor T C Daintith, Mr Rex Davie, Mr and Mrs Mike Dawes, Dr and Mrs Arnold Franks, Mr and Mrs Harold Gabel, Mr Edward Guyver.

Mr and Mrs Michael Hall, Miss Susan Hall, Mr Sam Hall, Mr and Mrs A Hammond, Mr and Mrs Colin Harris, Mr John Hayes, Mr Noel Hepworth, Mr Richard Higgins, Mr Henry Hodge, Mr David Hogg, Mr Tony Hollis, Mr Richard Hooker, Mr Philip Horner, Mrs Gillian Howard, Mr Michael Huebner, Miss M Jacquemain, Mr and Mrs Ian Karsten, Mr Roger Kaye, QC, Miss Helena Kennedy, QC, Mr Chris Kerse, Mr Gregor Kowalski, Mr and Mrs J Knowles, Mr Stephen Lander, Mr Patrick Layden, Mr Stephen Laws, Mr and Mrs Stephen Lewis, Mr John Lloyd.

Mr John McCluskie, Mr and Mrs Francis MacFarlane, Mr Murdo Maclean, Mr Bob Morris, Ms K Morton, Mr Richard Mottram, Mr Robin Mountfield, Mr Philip Needham, Mr and Mrs Karl Newman, Mr Nigel Nicholls, Mr David Nissen, Mrs Margery Oliver, Mrs Nickie Oppenheimer, Mr Tony Osborne, Mr and Mrs Andrew Owen, Mr David Pannick, QC, Mrs Susan Pearl, Mr David Pearson, Mr David Pickup, Mr Joe Pilling, Mr Tim Pratt, Dr John Rae, Mrs Diane Reed, Miss Alison Read, Mr Z Reisman, Mr Jonathan Rickford, Mr Robert Ricks.

Mr and Mrs Roger Seaburne-May, Mr David Roodyn, Mr Roy Schurz, Mr Alan Searle, Mr Michael Schmidt, Mr and Mrs David Seymour, Mr and Mrs Norman Smith, Mr Peter Smith, Mrs Shirley Smith, Mrs Valerie Strachan, Mr Mike Thomas, Mr Robert Venables, Mr and Mrs Bernard Vyner, Mr Alan Walker, Mr Doug Wallers, Mr Robert Ward, Mr Mark Watson-Gandy, Mr Richard White, Mr David Wilkinson, Mr Alan Wilberby, Mr Michel Wood, Mr and Mrs Stephen Wooler.

Mr George Staple (Serious Fraud Office), Mr Stephen Richards (First Treasury Counsel), Mr A Canfield (Citizens' Advice Bureau) and Mrs Barbara Keary (Aldershot branch), Mr Adair Dyer (Hague Conference on Private International Law), Mr Philip Pollack (Clifton College) and many other friends and colleagues.

Mr L.V.D. Tindale

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Lawrence "Larry" Victor Dolman Tindale, former Chairman of the North British Canadian Investment Trust, was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. Mr Ian Haigh officiated and gave a reading. Miss Kate Tindale, granddaughter, read the lesson. Mr John Tindale, son, Lord Chadlington, Mr Dennis Constantine, Mr Jon Foulds and Mr Geoff Norman paid tribute.

Among those present were:

Mr and Mrs Charles Everitt (brother-in-law and sister), Miss Joan Barton (sister-in-law), Mrs Gill Timmis (daughter-in-law) and Peter and Stephen Tindale (grandchildren); Viscount Caldecote, Sir Cyril Taylor, Mr Ralph Clark, Mr Stephen Clark, Mr Richard Seebohm, Mrs Sheila Innes and Mrs Dilys Hudson, representatives of St. SPAB, Richmond College, the American University in London, EDBRO, Clarks Shoes, Commodore Shipping (Guernsey), the English Heritage Orchestra, Combat Stress, *Which?*, the British Institute of Management and many other friends from the United Kingdom and overseas.

Professor Rosalind Hill

A memorial service for Professor Rosalind Hill, Emeritus Professor of History, London University, former Vice-Principal of Westfield College and Honorary Fellow of Queen Mary and Westfield College, was held yesterday at St Michael's, Cornhill. The Rev Professor Stuart Hall officiated.

Professor Graham Zellick, Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of London University, and Mrs Kathryn Harris of the Ecclesiastical History Society, read the lessons. Professor Christopher Brooke, FBA, Emeritus Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Cambridge University, gave an address.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II, Rotterdam, 1649; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, Portsmouth, 1806; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821; Paul Robeson, singer and actor, Princeton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1906; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer and choreographer, Mount Gambia, South Australia, 1909.

DEATHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, London, 1483; Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent), Careggi, Italy, 1492; François Rabelais, writer and physician, Paris, 1553; Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, Lord Chancellor 1618-21, London, 1626; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Pre-Raphaelite poet and painter, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent, 1882; Edward Thomas, poet, killed in action, Arras, 1917; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, Pau, France, 1940; Dr C.E.M. Joad, civil servant, author and controversialist, Hampstead, 1953; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, Phoenix, Arizona, 1959.

The Hudson Bay Company ceded its territory to Canada, 1896.

Germany invaded Denmark and Norway, 1940.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Russell and Miss R.M. Fairbairn
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Michael Russell, of Wilby, Norfolk, and Rose, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fairbairn, of Ansty, West Sussex.

Mr G.J. Blackburn and Miss S.A. Bates
The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Captain and Mrs John Blackburn, of Dilton Marsh, Wiltshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Bates, of Westhumble, Surrey.

Mr J.L.J. Burr and Miss K.T. McWilliams
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Jim Burr and the late Mrs Gillian Burr, of Fetcham, Surrey, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward F. McWilliams, of Hong Kong.

Mr R.J.S. Carswell and Miss A-M.L. Dobson
The engagement is announced between Robert James Stewart, son of Mr and Mrs Robert S.L. Carswell, of Winchfield, Hampshire, and Anne-Marie Lorraine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian C. Dobson, of Lower Raydon, Suffolk.

Mr A.J.R. Cullen and Miss D.K. Godwin-Austen
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr Jeremy Cullen, of Montou, Aveyron, France, and Mrs Tove Reventlow, of Frilford, Oxon, and Diana, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Robin Godwin-Austen, of Shalford, Surrey.

Mr R.S. Culme-Seymour and Miss C.L. Vause
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr Mark Culme-Seymour, of Netherbury, Dorset, and Mrs Sally Culme-Seymour, of Fulham, London, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Vause, of Loxwood, West Sussex.

Mr C.J. Davies and Miss S.E. Coxon
The engagement is announced between Craig John, son of Mr and Mrs John Davies, of Swansea, and Sally Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs Jean Coxon and the late Mr Roy Coxon, of Chelsfield, Kent.

Mr T.B. Kimbell and Miss A.E. Rider
The engagement is announced between Thomas, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Kimbell, of Petersham, Surrey, and Aimee Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Rider, of Woodham, Surrey.

Flight Lieutenant R.J. Knighton and Miss C.E. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael J. Knighton, of Hilton, Derbyshire, and Caitlin, younger daughter of Professor and Mrs Edgar W. Jenkins, of Leeds.

Mr N. Lawson-Smith and Miss C. Stretton
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Lawson-Smith, of El Pinar, Southern Spain, and Carla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Stretton, of Coldstream Farm, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Mr M.J. Matthews and Dr S.D.E. Rudge
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of the Revd. Melvyn and Mrs June Matthews, of Chew Magna, Somerset, and Shauna, elder daughter of the late Mr John Edward Rudge and of Mrs Eveline Rudge, of Ferndown, Dorset.

Mr B. Tuttle and Miss V.J. Cripps
The engagement is announced between Ben, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Tuttle, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Cripps, of Cuckfield, West Sussex.

Mr D.A. Williams and Miss A.L. Hinton
The engagement is announced between Darrell, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Williams, of Nantgarw, South Wales, and Alexandra, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Hinton, of West Rounton, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Mr R.C. Williamson and Miss J.E. Harley
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr Walter Williamson and the late Mrs Williamson, of Lowestoft, Suffolk, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Basil Harley, of Great Horkesley, Essex.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Nicholas Armstrong, Curate, Filey (York): to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Alveley, and St Andrew, Quatt (Hereford).

The Rev Brian Camp, Priest-in-charge, St Giles, Sheldon: to be Rector, St Giles, Sheldon (Birmingham), suspension of presentation having been lifted.

The Rev Michael Cartwright, Honorary Priest-in-charge, Altarnon w Bolventor, Laneast and St Clether: to be Vicar, Treverbyn (Truro).

The Rev Derek Chandler, Curate, Bitterne Park, Southampton (Winchester): to be Team Vicar, Melton Mowbray Team Ministry (Leicester).

The Rev John Crossley, Assistant Curate, Westfield, Workington: to be Team Vicar-designate, Penrith, and part-time Chaplain of Newton Rigg College (Carlisle).

The Rev Janet Driver, Honorary Curate, St Margaret, Putney: to be Honorary Curate, St Paul, Streatham (Southwark).

The Rev Guy Elsmore, Curate, St Michael, Huyton: to be Senior Assistant in that parish (Liverpool).

The Rev Susan Field, Chaplain to Loughborough University and Director of Post-Ordination Training (Leicester): to be *also* Bishop's Chaplain for Women's Ministry, same diocese.

The Rev Clive French, Chaplain of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich: to be Rector, St Dunstan, Cheam (Southwark).

The Rev Ralph Goldenberg, Curate-in-charge, St Andrew's, Edgware: to be Team Vicar, Christ Church, Roxeth (London).

The Rev Nigel Holmes, Vicar, Mexborough: to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Nether Hoyland (Sheffield).

Prebendary Ray Howard Jones, recently retired: to be Prebendary Emeritus of Hereford Cathedral (Hereford).

The Rev Richard King, Priest-in-charge, Orlestone w Snave and Ruckinge w Warehorne: to be Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Canterbury).

The Rev Tom Leary, Vicar, St Mary, Merton: to be *also* Assistant Rural Dean of Merton (Southwark).

The Rev Howard Mayell, Priest-in-charge, Black Torrington, Highampton, Bradford w Cookbury and Thornbury (Exeter): to be Team Vicar, Ledbury Team Ministry (Hereford).

Resignations and retirements

Canon Ian Knox, Canon Residentiary of Wakefield Cathedral and Director of Ecumenical Affairs (Wakefield): to retire May 31 and be appointed a Canon Emeritus.

Prebendary John Pearce, Rector, St Anne's, Limehouse (London): to retire July 31.

Prebendary Peter Pytches, Vicar, Jesus Church, Forty Hill (London): to retire October 1.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend the executive board meeting at 1 Wandsworth Plain, London SW18, at 11.00.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of St Bartholomew's Hospital, will open the new St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry buildings, Whitechapel, London E1, at 11.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open Jewish Care's new residential and nursing home, Lady Sarah Cohen House, the Asher Loftus Centre, Colney Hatch Lane, N11, at 3.40.

The Duke of Kent, as Colonel of the Scots Guards, will attend an Equerries' reunion dinner at St James's Palace at 7.30.

Birthdays today

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 40; Lord Justice Simon Brown, 60; Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 69; Lord Deramore, 86; Mr G H Edwards, Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 39; the Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio, 88; Mr Robson Fisher, former headmaster, Bryanston School, 76; Lord Fitt, 71; Viscount Gage, 63; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 56; Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 71; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toynbee Hall, 64; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 71; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 72; the Hon Bernard Jenkin, 38; Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 52; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 51; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 69; Mr Martin Margiela, fashion designer, 43; Professor Basil Mitchell, FBA, philosopher of religion, 80; Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 65; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 80; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 71; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 57; Mr Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist, 65.

Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 72; Professor K.G. Robbins, Senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 57; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 66; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 60; Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 61; Professor D.M. Walker, QC, 77; Mr B.H. Weston, former chairman, Manweb, 67; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 54; Miss Frieda Young, diplomat, 84; Sir Richard Young, industrialist, 83.

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Mr R.S. Culme-Seymour and Miss C.L. Vause
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr Mark Culme-Seymour, of Netherbury, Dorset, and Mrs Sally Culme-Seymour, of Fulham, London, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Vause, of Loxwood, West Sussex.

Mr C.J. Davies and Miss S.E. Coxon
The engagement is announced between Craig John, son of Mr and Mrs John Davies, of Swansea, and Sally Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs Jean Coxon and the late Mr Roy Coxon, of Chelsfield, Kent.

Mr T.B. Kimbell and Miss A.E. Rider
The engagement is announced between Thomas, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Kimbell, of Petersham, Surrey, and Aimee Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Rider, of Woodham, Surrey.

Flight Lieutenant R.J. Knighton and Miss C.E. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael J. Knighton, of Hilton, Derbyshire, and Caitlin, younger daughter of Professor and Mrs Edgar W. Jenkins, of Leeds.

Mr N. Lawson-Smith and Miss C. Stretton
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Lawson-Smith, of El Pinar, Southern Spain, and Carla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Stretton, of Coldstream Farm, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Mr M.J. Matthews and Dr S.D.E. Rudge
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of the Revd. Melvyn and Mrs June Matthews, of Chew Magna, Somerset, and Shauna, elder daughter of the late Mr John Edward Rudge and of Mrs Eveline Rudge, of Ferndown, Dorset.

Mr B. Tuttle and Miss V.J. Cripps
The engagement is announced between Ben, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Tuttle, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Cripps, of Cuckfield, West Sussex.

Mr D.A. Williams and Miss A.L. Hinton
The engagement is announced between Darrell, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Williams, of Nantgarw, South Wales, and Alexandra, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Hinton, of West Rounton, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Mr R.C. Williamson and Miss J.E. Harley
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr Walter Williamson and the late Mrs Williamson, of Lowestoft, Suffolk, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Basil Harley, of Great Horkesley, Essex.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Nicholas Armstrong, Curate, Filey (York): to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Alveley, and St Andrew, Quatt (Hereford).

The Rev Brian Camp, Priest-in-charge, St Giles, Sheldon: to be Rector, St Giles, Sheldon (Birmingham), suspension of presentation having been lifted.

The Rev Michael Cartwright, Honorary Priest-in-charge, Altarnon w Bolventor, Laneast and St Clether: to be Vicar, Treverbyn (Truro).

The Rev Derek Chandler, Curate, Bitterne Park, Southampton (Winchester): to be Team Vicar, Melton Mowbray Team Ministry (Leicester).

The Rev John Crossley, Assistant Curate, Westfield, Workington: to be Team Vicar-designate, Penrith, and part-time Chaplain of Newton Rigg College (Carlisle).

The Rev Janet Driver, Honorary Curate, St Margaret, Putney: to be Honorary Curate, St Paul, Streatham (Southwark).

The Rev Guy Elsmore, Curate, St Michael, Huyton: to be Senior Assistant in that parish (Liverpool).

The Rev Susan Field, Chaplain to Loughborough University and Director of Post-Ordination Training (Leicester): to be *also* Bishop's Chaplain for Women's Ministry, same diocese.

The Rev Clive French, Chaplain of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich: to be Rector, St Dunstan, Cheam (Southwark).

The Rev Ralph Goldenberg, Curate-in-charge, St Andrew's, Edgware: to be Team Vicar, Christ Church, Roxeth (London).

The Rev Nigel Holmes, Vicar, Mexborough: to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Nether Hoyland (Sheffield).

Prebendary Ray Howard Jones, recently retired: to be Prebendary Emeritus of Hereford Cathedral (Hereford).

The Rev Richard King, Priest-in-charge, Orlestone w Snave and Ruckinge w Warehorne: to be Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Canterbury).

The Rev Tom Leary, Vicar, St Mary, Merton: to be *also* Assistant Rural Dean of Merton (Southwark).

The Rev Howard Mayell, Priest-in-charge, Black Torrington, Highampton, Bradford w Cookbury and Thornbury (Exeter): to be Team Vicar, Ledbury Team Ministry (Hereford).

Resignations and retirements

Canon Ian Knox, Canon Residentiary of Wakefield Cathedral and Director of Ecumenical Affairs (Wakefield): to retire May 31 and be appointed a Canon Emeritus.

Prebendary John Pearce, Rector, St Anne's, Limehouse (London): to retire July 31.

Prebendary Peter Pytches, Vicar, Jesus Church, Forty Hill (London): to retire October 1.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend the executive board meeting at 1 Wandsworth Plain, London SW18, at 11.00.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of St Bartholomew's Hospital, will open the new St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry buildings, Whitechapel, London E1, at 11.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open Jewish Care's new residential and nursing home, Lady Sarah Cohen House, the Asher Loftus Centre, Colney Hatch Lane, N11, at 3.40.

The Duke of Kent, as Colonel of the Scots Guards, will attend an Equerries' reunion dinner at St James's Palace at 7.30.

Birthdays today

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 40; Lord Justice Simon Brown, 60; Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 69; Lord Deramore, 86; Mr G H Edwards, Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 39; the Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio, 88; Mr Robson Fisher, former headmaster, Bryanston School, 76; Lord Fitt, 71; Viscount Gage, 63; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 56; Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 71; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toynbee Hall, 64; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 71; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 72; the Hon Bernard Jenkin, 38; Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 52; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 51; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 69; Mr Martin Margiela, fashion designer, 43; Professor Basil Mitchell, FBA, philosopher of religion, 80; Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 65; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 80; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 71; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 57; Mr Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist, 65.

Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 72; Professor K.G. Robbins, Senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 57; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 66; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 60; Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 61; Professor D.M. Walker, QC, 77; Mr B.H. Weston, former chairman, Manweb, 67; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 54; Miss Frieda Young, diplomat, 84; Sir Richard Young, industrialist, 83.

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You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16 : 11

BIRTHS

BALDWIN-EVANS - To Kay and David on March 5th another wonderful son, Owen, a brother for Theo.

BEVAN - On Sunday April 6th at The West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, to Alexandra and James, a daughter, Amelia Alexandra.

CHAMBERLEN - On April 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline and Julian, a son.

DESPERESSA - On 31st March at The Portland Hospital, to Louisa (née Charlton-Meyrick) and Ian, a daughter, Mariella.

DIXON - On April 4th 1997, to Michael and Joanne (née Larner), a daughter, Alice Louisa, a sister for Emily Kate.

GREENO - On 4th April, to Fleur (née van Roosmalen) and Teddy, a son and a daughter, Jerome Leonardus and Isabella Marie, a brother and sister for Julius.

HAMILTON-HOLBROOK - On March 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Meltem and Simon, a beautiful daughter - Alexandrea Beatrice.

KELLY - On 5th April at The Portland Hospital to Declan and Anne, a son, Liam John, a brother for Isabelle, Aidan, and Rob.

LAWRENCE - On April 6th, to Heather (née Bunting) and Mark, a son, George Frederick Stanley, a brother for Geoffrey.

MATHIAS - On April 4th, 1997, in Austin Texas, to Anna (née Gendel) and Charles, a daughter, Jesse Venetia.

McKENNA - A beautiful baby daughter, Georgina Emma on 1st April 1997 to Ian and Belinda McKenna (née Hackett) of Wimbledon, London.

PALMER - On 25th March at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Neil and Mary Jane, a daughter, Phoebe Jane.

REUBEN - On 3rd April 1997 at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda and Jeremy, a son, Daniel Alexander.

STENTIFORD - On 4th April 1997, to Lucy (née Chatterton) and Phillip, a daughter, Chloë Olivia.

VORCE - On April 5th 1997, in Birmingham, to Andrea and Richard, a daughter, Rhianna Elizabeth.

BIRTHS

WOOLGER - On April 8th, to Alison (née Price) and Jarvis, a daughter, Araminta Clementine, a sister for Maximilian, Imogen and Octavia.

DEATHS

ADDA - Maximilian Joseph Alvan, on Friday 4th April 1997 in Barbados aged 12 years. Beloved son of Michael and Judith, brother of Gavin, Benjamin and Alexia, and nephew of Robin and Pernille.

ALBERY - Barbara Yu Ling (née Lee), beloved Mother of Wyndham and Bronson, died peacefully at home on 6th April. Funeral 11th April. Donations for Barbara's palliative carers in preference to flowers, c/o Bronson Albery at The Top Flat, 65 Beak Street, London, W1R 3LF.

ARBEID - Anne, on Sunday April 6th peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital. Wife of the late Hyman Arbeid, sister of the late Maurice Stephany and the late Peggy Weber, sister-in-law of Joan Stephany and Sol Arbeid. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium at 12.30pm today, Wednesday 9th April. Memorial Service at 8pm this evening at The West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, London W1.

BARKER - Captain Nick CBE DL Royal Navy on April 7th at home. The most courageous man, beloved husband, father, and grandfather. The Funeral will be on Saturday 12th April at 2 o'Clock at St Michael and All Angels, Alwinton, Northumberland. A service of Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday June 11th at All Hallows by the Tower London at 11 am. All enquiries either to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen - Tel: 0171 487 5101 or G.T. Rogerson & Son in Northumberland - Tel: 01669 640216. Family flowers only but donations to the R.N.M.D.S.F. would be most gratefully received.

DEATHS

BEECROFT - Dona, on 6th April 1997, aged 40. Peacefully after a fight against illness faced with great courage, calmness and dignity. Dearly loved wife of Lionel. Much loved by all her family. An exceptional and special friend to all who knew and loved her. Funeral Service at St Martins Church, Dorking on Monday, 14th April at 12 noon. Flowers and donations (Princess Alice Hospice) to be sent to J. Stoneman, Dozan Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, RH1 6AZ.

BESUCHET-SELIGMAN - Elizabeth Hildagrace, devoted wife of Blaise, died at their home in Switzerland on April 5th 1997. She was the cherished daughter of Elizabeth and Peter Seligman, loving mother of Claire, David, Jaques, Lavinia and Anna-Moon and greatly missed grandmother of eight grandchildren. Lavinia, Johanna, Gabriella, John and Bruce have lost a sister they loved and admired. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving in May to commemorate a wonderful, but too short, life.

BIBBY - Sandy (Howard Morton) on 6th April in hospital following a car accident. Born 1918; educated at Oundle School and St John's College Cambridge; joined the Navy and then J. Bibby and Sons of Liverpool. Goodbye with our love from his wife Constance and sons Colin and Peter. Funeral 12 noon Monday 14th April, Bron-y-Nant Crematorium, Dinerth Road, Colwyn Bay. No flowers please. Funeral Director Arwyn Roberts 01745 812935.

BOOTE - Henry

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR MALCOLM BROWN

Professor Sir Malcolm Brown, FRS, geologist, died on March 27 aged 71. He was born on October 5, 1925.



With the death of Malcolm Brown, science has lost one of the foremost members of its immediate post-war generation and the international geological community one of its best loved and most respected colleagues. As a prolific and inspired researcher Brown won a worldwide reputation for his contributions to petrology and was one of the few scientists outside America to be invited by Nasa to work on the samples of lunar rock brought back by the Apollo 11 mission. As a lecturer first at Oxford and then, from 1967 to 1979, as Professor of Geology at Durham, he had a long and distinguished teaching career. And as Director of the British Geological Survey, from 1979 to 1985, he guided that body through a difficult period in its history, overseeing its restructuring and modernisation, and greatly enhancing the quality of research.

George Malcolm Brown was born at Redcar in northeast Yorkshire and received his early education at Coatham School. He entered the RAF in 1943 and during his training attended a short course for RAF cadets at the University of Durham. There he encountered Lawrence Wager, recently appointed Professor of Geology. The influence exerted by Wager and by his subject brought Brown back to Durham as an undergraduate on his demobilisation in 1947. He graduated with a first in 1950; Wager regarded him as the best student he ever had.

Moving to the Chair of Geology at Oxford in 1950, Wager took Brown with him as a research student, setting him to work on the layered ultrabasic igneous complex of the island of Rum. Brown made a marvellous job of this research, further developing ideas enunciated by Wager in his seminal study, with W.A. Deer, of the Skaergaard Intrusion in East Greenland. This fruitful line of research culminated in the publication of *Layered Igneous Rocks* (1968) which comprised a worldwide review of layered complexes, undertaken by Brown in collaboration with Wager and completed by Brown after the latter's death.



Brown's interests in igneous petrology were strengthened by his participation in Wager and Deer's 1953 East Greenland geological expedition to the Skaergaard area. On his return, he was elected to a Commonwealth (Harkness) Fellowship and went to Princeton University, 1954-55.

Brown was appointed to a new lectureship in petrology at Oxford in 1955 and in 1965 was elected one of the founder fellows of the new graduate college of St Cross. He proved an inspiring teacher and an exceptionally good supervisor of research students. His own research expanded to encompass work on the isle of Skye and in the Bushveld complex of South Africa, and a major investigation, undertaken with Wager, into some of the volcanic islands of the West Indies. His experience was further broadened by a fellowship at the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution in Washington, 1966-67.

In the autumn of 1967, Brown took up the Chair of Geology at Durham, in succession to Kingsley Dunham, who had moved on to the directorship of the Geological Survey. His direction of the department was positive and imaginative, further enhancing its already enviable reputation. His utter integrity and clarity of thought, coupled with kindliness and a sense of humour, stood him in good stead in university affairs, as Dean of the Faculty of Science and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Brown was selected by Nasa as one of the small number of scientists outside the United States to participate in the lunar research programme, and much of his research in his earlier years back at Durham was concentrated in this field. His inspired and meticulous petrological work on the samples of moon rock recovered by the Apollo 11 space mission brought him an international reputation, and in the years following the first moon landing he was constantly in demand as a speaker at conferences the world over.

Brown's research output was formidable and he was author or part-author of several books on petrology and lunar studies, and of some 120 scientific papers. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1975.

He was one of the best-informed and most broadminded of geologists, and it was, therefore, fitting that he was selected once more to succeed Dunham, this time as Director of the Institute of Geological Sciences (as the Geological Survey had become: however, to everyone's relief, in 1984 Brown changed the name to the British Geological Survey).

His period as director (1979-1985) was one of particular difficulty; furthermore, unlike some of his predecessors, he had had no previous experience of public service. He had to face cuts in funding and the Butler inquiry into the function and justification of the survey's existence. The move to centralise the survey's operations at a new headquarters near Nottingham, involving relocation of hundreds of staff, was under way when Brown took office, but he oversaw the bulk of it and set an example to senior staff when he moved his office to the new site in 1983.

As director he reorganised the management structure to give more flexibility to the way in which scientific research was conducted, but also in recognition of the need to manage the careers of individual scientists. One of his most important contributions was to encourage the use of the multidisciplinary team concept to break down barriers between the subdisciplines of the science, in order to enrich the quality of research being done.

In 1985 he wrote BGS's first terms of reference and saw to publication of the first strategic plan, which established the framework for the modern BGS. The year 1985 also saw the official opening of the new headquarters and the survey's 150th birthday, which Brown celebrated with a series of open days that gave thousands of visitors direct access to the work of the organisation he was now proud to serve.

On retirement, Brown was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1985. The informal intimation that the honour was as least as much for his scientific work as for his directorship gave him the greatest pleasure. Additional honours that came his way included, as well as his Fellowship of the Royal Society, the Wollaston Fund Award (1963) and the Murchison Medal (1981) of the Geological Society, and honorary doctorates from Leicester and the Open University.

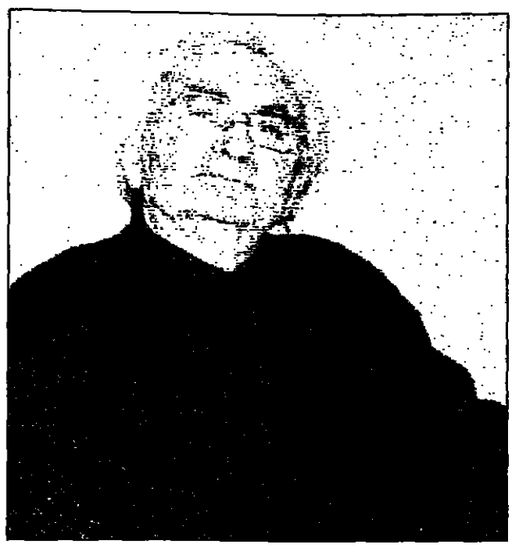
Brown's survey post, as the top geologist in government service, carried responsibilities as geological adviser to various government departments, and to a number of governmental and industrial organisations overseas. He was also chairman of the board of directors of Commonwealth Geological Surveys, concerned with development programmes in the 35 nations of the Commonwealth. These links, together with others in industry and the academic world, meant that Brown went into retirement with an active professional future to which to look forward.

He became a consultant to the United Nations and also served as a member, and later chairman, of the board of the International Geological Correlation Programme, under the aegis of Unesco and the International Union of Geological Sciences, though this last phase of his career was cut short by his last, unexpected illness.

Malcolm Brown's first marriage was dissolved in 1977. His second, to Sally Marston in 1985, was blissfully happy, and they made a most effective team; she survives him, together with the two step-daughters he acquired through her and to whom he was devoted.

STUART COLLINS

Stuart Collins, CB, chief inspector of audit, Department of the Environment, 1968-76, died on March 26 aged 81. He was born on February 24, 1916.



STUART COLLINS played a leading role in the development of local government audit. Over the course of almost 20 years in which he held positions of increasing influence, he helped to bring about great changes in his field. His far-sighted views also laid the foundation for the establishment, some years after his retirement, of the Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales.

Stuart Verdun Collins was educated at Plymouth College and entered the Civil Service as an audit assistant in the Ministry of Health in 1934. After training, war service and extensive local government audit practice in Lancashire, he was appointed district auditor in London in 1958. Thereafter he was deputy chief inspector of audit, 1965-68, and chief inspector, 1968-76.

While London district auditor, he served as honorary secretary of the District Auditors' Society and through that office also was able to exert significant influence on the development of district audit. He was concerned to evolve close relationships with other accountancy bodies, particularly the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, to which he was elected a member in 1968.

As chief inspector, Collins ran the District Audit Service; he also advised ministers on local government finance. There was an obvious danger of political influence being brought to bear on the former role via the latter, although there were powerful safeguards against this. But such was Collins's strength of character that there was in any case never the slightest chance of this occurring.

Collins was influential in bringing about important changes to the structure of local government audit. Before the Local Government Act of 1972 most local authorities were wholly or partly subject to district audit, but there was a residue which had either "elective" or "professional" audit. Neither of these arrangements had the rigour of the district audit system, particularly as to the accountability of members and officers.

The 1972 Act provided for a single system of audit whether the work was carried out by a district auditor or an auditor approved by the Secretary of State. Local authorities were given a choice of auditors, but not a choice of system, and most of them chose district audit.

Collins was a strong advocate of the single system, but he also argued that an independent body was needed to appoint and supervise auditors. His recommendation was not taken up in the 1972 legislation for England and Wales, however, though the idea was later adopted in the 1973 Scottish legislation which set up the Commission for Local Authority Accounts.

Undeterred, Collins returned to the need for an independent body to supervise the audit function in the evidence he gave to Sir Frank Layfield's committee of inquiry into local government finance, 1974-76.

The Layfield committee backed the proposition, but there was no effective action in support of it until Michael Heseltine's initiative which resulted in the establishment of the Audit Commission in 1983, when Collins saw the fulfilment of his ideas.

Complementary to these structural changes was the development in district audit of more systematic auditing, and its extension to the review of management controls and value for money. Collins encouraged these developments, which initially did not meet with general approval in local government. He established specialised auditors in, for example, computing, who developed techniques which were well in advance of others in the same field.

All of this was carried out in spite of continuous staffing problems. Pay and staff numbers were related to Civil Service arrangements and caused difficulties when applied to what amounted to an independent profit-making audit practice.

Collins was appointed CB in 1970. He was much admired for his independence and lucidity of mind. His far-sighted direction of district audit and his development of links with others in the same field were undoubtedly factors in the development of the accountancy profession as a whole.

On retirement he returned to his West Country haunts and his love of sailing, as well as the practice of his extensive DIY skills.

His first wife, Helen, whom he married in 1942, died in 1968. In 1970 he married Joan Walmsley, the widow of a colleague. She survives him together with two daughters from his first marriage and a step-son and two step-daughters from his second.

TOMOYUKI TANAKA

Tomoyuki Tanaka, film producer and creator of Godzilla, died in Tokyo on April 2 aged 86. He was born in Osaka on April 26, 1910.

A SHREWD Japanese business mind seems an incongruous progenitor of a creature like Godzilla — a towering reptilian beast belching radioactive flames from its prehistoric maw. But it was Tomoyuki Tanaka, the head of production at the Toho Movie Company, who dreamt up this science fiction monster and sent it into action, stamping impetuously over the Tokyo skyline, strewing famous landmarks in its path and crunching passing trains in its mouth on the way.

His invention proved an enormous success. There was something unintentionally ridiculous about this 400ft beast which, thumping along in a path already beaten by King Kong, caught the popular imagination. A series of more than 20 Godzilla films followed. The cumbersome leviathan did battle with a mammoth moth in *Godzilla versus the Thing* (1964) and fought fiercely with a stupendous shrimp in *Godzilla versus the Sea Monster* (1966). The tail-lashing dinosaur with its pylon-melting breath became something of an icon of kitsch. Gradually Godzilla turned from villain into hero. He foiled a world takeover plot of giant cockroaches in *Godzilla versus Gigan* (1972) and saved Japan from a monster born of waste and bloated on factory fumes in *Godzilla versus the Smog Monster* (1972).

Although in his long life Tanaka produced some 200 films, many of artistic distinction, Godzilla remained his favourite brainchild and when the studio finally had the creature "put down" just 16 months ago it was said that Tanaka never got over it.

Tomoyuki Tanaka began work at the Toho film studios in 1940. By 1953, a year after the American occupation of Japan had ended, he had become head of production. But by this time he found himself facing a decline in Japanese cinema, eclipsed by blockbusters from America.

It was *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms*, Eugène Laurie's film about a rampaging monster, unthawed from millenial slumber by the heat of an atomic explosion, which caught Tanaka's imagination in his first year as head of production. It was inevitable that it should have done so. The Japanese were still suffering from post A-bomb trauma.

A few months previously the Americans had exploded an H-bomb, many times more powerful than the two atomic ones used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands, some 2,000 miles southwest of Japan. Then in 1954 another had been exploded on Bikini Atoll. Its fall-out afflicted the crew of a Japanese fishing boat, *Lucky Dragon*, one of whom died of radiation sickness. For the Japanese anything which connected the ideas of America and nuclear explosion evoked powerful emotions. And the acute Tanaka, quick to recognise the symbolic potential of *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms*, created an apocalypitc



monster of his own. The name of the fishing boat became the inspiration for Godzilla.

Commissioning a script from Shigeru Koyama, a science fiction writer, Tanaka went on to work with the special effects genius Eiji Tsubuyaya. Unlike *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* which had been mechanical, Godzilla was a man dressed in a monster suit, left free to rampage among miniature models of cities. In Japan it was called "Gojira", a name which, derived from the nickname of a brawny studio hand, was a conflation of the first syllable of gorilla and the last two of *kujira* which means whale.

When *Godzilla, King of the Monsters*, the dubbed American version of *Gojira*, was released in 1956 the Japanese film industry was lifted out of the doldrums. It achieved worldwide success at the box office. Additional footage was added to the American version of the movie, introducing the actor Raymond Burr as a classic hard-boiled detective, and certain scenes of the devastation which the monster wreaks on Tokyo were cut out — they were thought to be too poignantly reminiscent of Hiroshima. The film which had been terrifying to the Japanese — a warning of apocalypse — seemed oddly ridiculous to the Americans.

Over the course of more than 20 sequels, despite increasingly sophisticated animation techniques, Godzilla steadily lost his capacity to terrify. Tanaka collaborated profitably with American companies on increasingly ludicrous Godzilla adaptations and his beast became something of a freelance do-gooder, saving the world from the threat of a motley assembly of gargantuan aliens.

Aside from Godzilla, Tanaka was the producer of several historical films including among many others, Kihachi Okamoto's *Japan's Longest Day* (1967) and the magnificent epic *Kagemusha* (Shadow Warrior, 1980), which was the first Japanese film in almost 25 years to win the Golden Palm Grand Prix Award at Cannes.

Tanaka rose within the Toho Movie Company to become chairman of the board of directors and eventually chief executive producer. But Godzilla remained always his monument.

Tomoyuki Tanaka was married. He had three children.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOHN to Wendy. Between 8 and 10 am. Before Saturday please.Tel: 01453 883209 or Fax : 01453883553. Yes do it

GAP ACTIVITY PROJECTS (GAP) Ltd
25th Anniversary in 1997
The Director would like to hear from any volunteer who benefited from working overseas under GAP's auspices between approx 1972 to 1985. Please fax details to: 0118 9576634.

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LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
TEQUE LONDON LIMITED
Trading Name "Teque"
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 24th April 1997 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonable require.
Dated this 3rd April 1997
By Order of the Board
A LOVE, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
UNIMEC BUILDING INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 22nd April 1997 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonable require.
Dated this 1st April 1997
By Order of the Board
N Van Loan, Director

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
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THE TIMES
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MONDAY-THURSDAY	9AM-8PM
FRIDAY	9AM-6PM
SATURDAY	9AM-4PM
SUNDAY	10AM-4PM

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A DAY IN COURT.

Mary Dobie was indicted for stealing a quantity of linen and other property belonging to the Earl of Charlemount, and Richard Dobie, her husband, was charged with receiving the same, knowing it to be stolen. The female prisoner was a servant in his lordship's establishment. A policeman stated that he went to the house of the male prisoner, and on searching his boxes, found a sword and some table linen, part of the stolen property. Lord Charlemount was examined from the bench, and stated that both the prisoners entered his service in 1830, but having no further occasion for a groom, he recommended the man as coachman to another nobleman. He had ever entertained the highest opinion of them, and great confidence was placed in the woman. - Both prisoners were found Guilty. Mr Phillips said that Lord Charlemount had been robbed of jewellery to the amount of 3,000 l., and if the prisoners knew anything about it, perhaps at the 11th hour they would make an atonement. The Recorder said that offences of this description must be severely punished, as an example to others, and he sentenced them to seven years' transportation.

John Barton, aged 63, was indicted for stealing several articles of bed-furniture, the property of Christian Butcher, Hannah Abel, and other persons. The prisoner pleaded guilty to all the charges. Several persons spoke of his former respectability, and the prisoner put in a petition stating that he was ruined by taking the Grafton Arms upon false representations, and paying 1,100 l. He was sentenced to one year's hard labour.

ON THIS DAY

April 9, 1838

One spontaneous incident of levity contrasted with the grim threat of transportation that hung over the court all day.

At 1 o'clock the Grand Jury came into court, and complained that having got through all the bills but one, they had been waiting half an hour for a witness. If they were to be thus delayed, they should have other presentations, and be detained until midnight, which was too bad after devoting 12 hours daily during the week. The bill remaining was connected with a robbery commited an hour before. The Recorder intimated that it was a case of speedy justice, and they must do their part of the duty as quick as possible. The gentlemen retired and shortly came into court in a trot, which caused great laughter, and the foreman, almost out of breath, presented his last bill, which, he said, was the 296th they had disposed of. The Recorder congratulated them, and they were then discharged.

E. M'Carthy was sentenced to seven years' transportation for robbery. She threw herself on the floor and yelled in a frightful manner, vociferating the most dreadful oaths and imprecations. She defied the exertions of all the turnkeys and it was not until several policemen rushed to the dock that she could be carried out of court.

NEWS

Major encourages Hamilton

■ John Major strengthened his support for Neil Hamilton last night when he insisted that he would not bend to threats from people who wanted the former minister forced out.

The Prime Minster suggested that Mr Hamilton's right to stand for Parliament while protesting his innocence of the cash-for-questions charges against him had become a matter of principle that should be upheld irrespective of the damage it was doing to the Government ..... **Pages 1, 9-14, 19, 20, 36**

Bell stays cool under fire

■ Martin Bell broke cover from his campaign HQ in Knutsford for his first press conference in the Tatton constituency and met a heavy barrage from Neil Hamilton and his wife. Mr Hamilton claimed a moral victory but Mr Bell said he now knew he was going to be the new MP..... **Page 1**

Canberra retires

A dinner held on board the P&O liner *Canberra* in Southampton marked the 15th anniversary of her joining the Falklands task force. She will be taken out of service in September..... **Page 2**

Meat hygiene

About 11,000 butchers' shops across the UK will be forced to spend up to £20,000 improving hygiene as a result of the official report into Scotland's E-coli food poisoning epidemic..... **Page 6**

Canoe deaths lawsuit

An activity centre that paid thousands of pounds in compensation to the parents of four children who drowned in the Lyme Bay canoe tragedy is suing the Government for damages ..... **Page 3**

The birth of galaxies

Astronomers at Durham University have produced a complete description of the evolution of the galaxies, beginning a few hundred thousand years after the Big Bang ..... **Page 8**

Life of luxury

Britain's best paid union official, a British Airways steward, has been dismissed for assaulting a member of a rival organisation who was taunting him about his luxurious life..... **Page 3**

China out of favour

President Clinton faces growing anti-Peking sentiment from both parties in Congress, which threatens to give him a rough ride this summer in his attempts to boost trade with China ..... **Pages 6, 21**

Father's agony

The father of two boys drowned on a fishing trip in the Bristol Channel described the agony of living with the knowledge that one had died for him ..... **Page 4**

How Titanic sunk

The Titanic was sunk by six narrow slits on her starboard side and not by a huge gash to her bow, French and American divers have found..... **Page 16**

Roux tastes defeat

The restaurateur Michel Roux faces a £400,000 tax bill after an unsuccessful High Court battle on over tax avoidance on his pension scheme..... **Page 4**

Looted art on show

Nearly a thousand works of art which were looted from French Jewish families by the Nazis went on show in Paris in an attempt to find the owners..... **Page 16**

Tinderbox heathlands

Many acres of heathland are at risk from fire as the dry weather makes dead gorse and heather vulnerable to arsonists and careless visitors..... **Pages 5, 21**

Italian fiasco

Uncertainty over Italy's imminent military intervention in Albania threatened to bring down Professor Romano Prodi's Centre Left Government ..... **Pages 17, 21**

British skins feel force of the sun

■ A week of brilliant sunshine brought Britain's earliest sunburn warning when the Cancer Research Campaign gave warning of the risk of skin cancer. The London Weather Centre said the maximum unprotected period in the sun at this time of year should be 25-30 minutes for people with fair skins and 40-45 minutes for those with average skins ..... **Page 1**

ALAN WELLER



Colonel Tommy Tucker, Common Cryer and Serjeant-at-Arms for the City of London, proclaiming the dissolution of Parliament from the steps of Royal Exchange. He prefaced the proclamation with the traditional "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!" **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Store wars: Tesco notched up another victory over J Sainsbury in the battle of the superstores by overtaking it in group profits for the first time ..... **Page 25**

Halifax: The building society has revealed details of the share dealing service that it proposes to offer to shareholders..... **Page 25**

Barings victims: Thousands of Barings bondholders, who lost £275 million in the 1995 crash, can expect to hear details shortly of a compensation offer..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 2.4 points to close at 4269.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 99.4 to 99.1 after a fall from $1.6297 to $1.6236 and from DM2.7879 to DM2.7779.... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Manchester United's two matches against a Dortmund team packed with German internationals may be the most momentous double yet for their manager, Alex Ferguson ..... **Page 48**

Golf: Tiger Woods is seeking victory in the Masters, an event in which no black golfer was invited to play until Lee Elder qualified in 1975 ..... **Page 46**

Cricket: The vexed issue of women joining MCC, the world's most famous cricket club, will be decided by its membership in the next year ..... **Page 48**

Racing: Nearly 12 million people watched the BBC's live coverage of the rearranged Grand National, making it this year's most-watched sports event on TV ..... **Page 43**

ARTS

Feeble Faust: ENO's new production of *The Damnation of Faust* was expected to provoke riots but in fact the most dynamic audience reaction was a yawn..... **Page 33**

Russian roulette: Kenneth MacMillan's *Anastasia* may lack narrative thrust but it has brilliant choreography. The Royal Ballet doesn't quite do it justice... **Page 34**

Circle line: How Richard Eyre has defied the architecture of the National Theatre to turn his largest auditorium, the Olivier, into theatre in the round..... **Page 35**

Rising star: At 27 Paul Gladstone Reid has composed a rock opera and a string quartet, founded a jazz orchestra, played solo piano — and has an Albert Hall premiere this month ..... **Page 35**

FEATURES

Breaking point: The pressure on those who have to work, and on men in particular, has never been greater. And it can have tragic consequences..... **Page 19**

Nigella Lawson: "*It is astonishing the amount of excitement and agitation generated by apathy at the moment*"..... **Page 19**

STYLE

Wrap attack: Designers give summer frocks a new slant..... **Page 18**

MEDIA & MARKETING

Brenda Maddox: Good soundbites are rarer than you think. A few little words blurted out by accident are a different matter ..... **Page 36**

Brian MacArthur reports on how Tony Blair won the battle for the front page..... **Page 37**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Geoff Brown reviews *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*, starring Woody Harrelson

■ BOOKS
Laurence Norfolk on the end of empire; Peter Ackroyd on Edward Fitzgerald

THE PAPERS

While Tony Blair dines on fish and chips, John Major's advisers seem to think they've pulled off a coup if they get him to roll up his shirtsleeves. If British voters are really so fond of the common touch, why was such an extraordinary person as Margaret Thatcher so popular? Mr Major seems to be squandering the prestige that befits his office. A few more weeks of this awkward posing, so embarrassing to behold, and voters will probably check off Tony Blair just for visual relief — *The Wall Street Journal*

LISTINGS

Preview: How the pressures of work can lead to tragedy. *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on a change of leading man at *Murder One*.. **Pages 46 47**

Motes and beams

It is a pity that yesterday's report from the Joint Council, *Unemployment and the Future of Work*, should undermine its own authority with policy prescriptions neither economically wise nor ethically courageous..... **Page 21**

Closed for business

Spring has come to Washington but its process of government is in hibernation. Six months after re-election Bill Clinton holds power without a programme..... **Page 21**

Tinderbox Britain

For the third year running Britain faces water shortages and hosepipe bans. Are seven lean years settling over us? ..... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

JOHN MAJOR

Since we were *last* told that this Government was about to lose an election, the average family has gained £1,100 more spending money a year after tax and inflation..... **Page 20**

SIMON JENKINS

The more distant the taxer from the taxed, the faster taxes tend to rise. This means that by refusing to allow local tax discretion, Mr Blair will risk not one perjury but two. Local government did for Margaret Thatcher by seducing her into the community charge catastrophe. It has done for Mr Major by forcing him to put up central taxes. Who knows what horrors it has in store for Mr Blair?..... **Page 20**

SIMON BARNES

Closure of Hickstead would be the flattening of the twin towers, the ploughing-up of Centre Court, the damming of the Thames at Temple Island. A chunk of national life would disappear..... **Page 42**

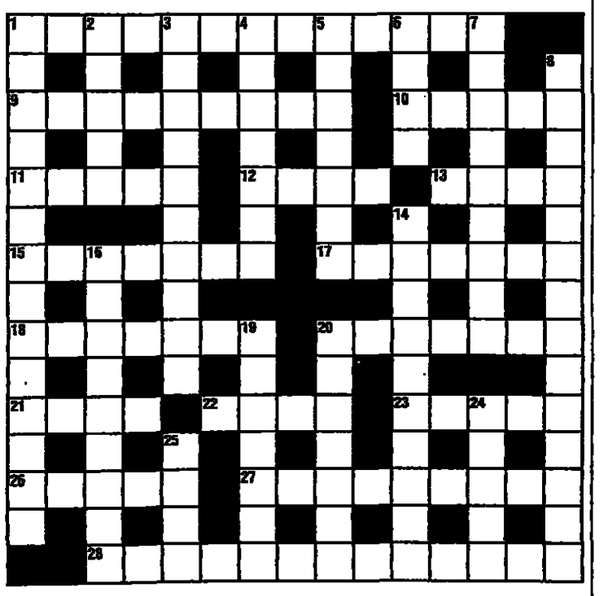
OBITUARIES

Professor Sir Malcolm Brown, geologist; **Tomoyuki Tanaka**, creator of Godzilla; **Stuart Collins**, district auditor..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Water resources; speech therapists; arts funding; choices in childbirth; Italy and Albania..... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,449



ACROSS

1 It may save one cast beside fiery pit (6,7).
9 Girl's back, getting stuck into the bottle in local (9).
10 This capital Cockney pronounces bother (5).
11 Keats and Yeats did, but don't (5).
12 Avoid refuse collector (4).
13 Sulphur discharge cut – reduced by half, for a start (4).
15 Type of Oriental letter set in metal (7).
17 Set off, sharing trip (7).
18 Leader of team knocked in a corner (7).
20 Domestic pet putting meat back, mostly (7).
21 Fire poet overlooking line (4).
22 Return of potentially shocking corruption (4).
23 Small amount of earth? Violet's turned in a small amount (5).
26 Remove Times before completion of puzzle (5).
27 Shun an interminable boozer – get away quickly (3,3,3).
28 Similar role e'd transformed in opera (7,6).

DOWN

1 Play providing part on the boards (8,6).
2 Score twice, since score went missing (5).
3 Watch line that's a feature of American parade (6,4).
4 It's used in bridge building, and is thus encased in tin (7).
5 Having a list of very rich? (7).
6 Painful account, horribly heartless (4).
7 Various tensions about Times following equal opportunities policy (3-6).
8 Not leaving after an argument, perhaps (14).
14 Star performer's right in depiction of holy Virgin Mary (5,5).
16 Keep out of club one golfers don't play with! (9).
19 More than one machine starts to develop electrical faults (7).
20 From which a drawer needs to pull out easily (7).
24 Some deliver socialism – the left (5).
25 Doctor inexplicably disliked skin (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,448

A	S	H	O	R	E		O	F	F	A	N	D	O	N
U		O		A		M		L		R		E		A
C	O	M	E	C	L	E	A	N		G	O	F	O	R
K		I		E		N		G		U		E		K
L	U	N	C	H	E	D		E	L	E	V	A	T	E
A		I		O		R				T		D		
N	A	D	I	R		N	E	P	O	T	I	S	M	
D			S	E		R		I				B		
	A	P	R	E	S	S	K	I		M	O	T	O	R
P		O			F		N		E		I		U	
A	U	R	E	O	L	E		T	O	P	K	N	O	T
N		T		U		N		I		I		A		
D	R	I	P	S		C	O	N	G	E	R	E	E	L
E		C		E		G		C		S		L		
R	O	O	T	L	E	S	S		G	E	N	T	R	Y

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Chivenor, Devon 18C (64F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides 0.11in; highest sunshine: Weymouth, Dorset 12.5hrs

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1998

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be dry with sunny spells at first, but cloud and patchy light rain will affect northern England and later North Wales. It should be quite warm in most places.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry with sunny spells after a band of cloud and light rain clears away to the south during the morning. Rain may reach northern Scotland later in the day. Warm in most places, but temperatures nearer average in the North West.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** Dry, sunny periods. Wind mainly light, easterly. Warm. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **E England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England:** Dry, bright or sunny intervals. Becoming more cloudy for a time, perhaps with some patchy drizzle. Wind light and variable. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** Cloud and patchy light rain clearing away, leaving a dry day with sunny spells. Wind light, northwesterly, becoming moderate, westerly. Max 14C (57F).

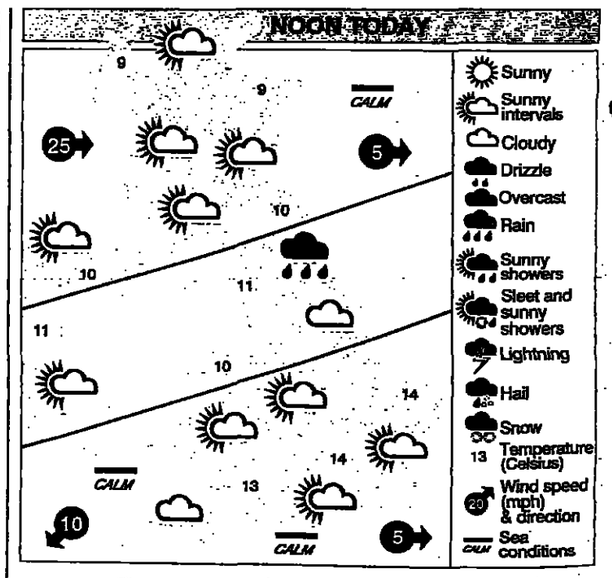
☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Argyll:** Cloud clearing to leave sunny spells. Wind light, northwesterly, becoming moderate, westerly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland:** Dry with sunny spells, but becoming cloudy later. Wind westerly, moderate, becoming fresh. Max 11C (52F).

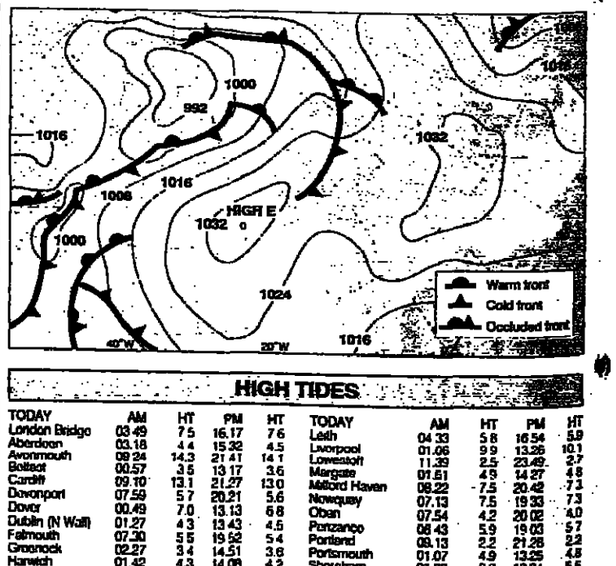
☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** Sunny spells and scattered showers. Cloud will be increasing from the west, bringing rain later. Wind fresh, westerly, becoming strong, southwesterly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** Dry, sunny spells. Rain in northern Scotland, perhaps extending south later.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high E will move northeastwards and deepen



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm; b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.4	-	15	59	c	Leeds	7.7	-	17	63	c
Anglesey	3.0	-	15	59	s	Lerwick	0.1	0.08	11	52	c
Aspatria	7.0	-	14	57	s	Leuchars	3.1	-	16	61	b
Aviemore	2.8	0.01	15	59	b	Littlehmptn	11.6	-	14	57	c
Belfast	6.5	-	16	61	s	London	11.7	-	17	63	s
Birmingham	10.7	-	16	61	s	Lowestoft	11.1	-	17	63	s
Bognor R	11.3	-	14	57	s	Manchester	8.1	-	16	61	s
Boumem'th	11.5	-	15	59	s	Margate	11.8	-	12	54	s
Bristol	11.0	-	17	63	s	Minehead	X				
Buxton	8.0	-	14	57	s	Morecambe	7.5	-	14	57	s
Cardiff	11.0	-	16	61	s	Newcastle	4.9	-	17	63	b
Clacton	12.4	-	9	48	s	Norwich	10.2	-	14	57	s
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	10.9	-	17	63	s
Colwyn Bay	7.8	-	13	55	s	Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Cromer	9.8	-	15	59	s	Poole	11.6	-	14	57	s
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	17	63	s
Eastbourne	11.4	-	13	55	s	Ross-o-wye	11.0	-	17	63	s
Edinburgh	3.9	-	18	61	b	Ryde	11.2	-	11	52	s
Eskdalemuir	3.5	-	12	54	b	Salcombe	11.3	-	12	54	s
Exmouth	11.2	-	12	54	s	Sandown	10.5	-	11	52	s
Falmouth	11.5	-	11	52	s	Saunton Snd	10.0	-	17	63	s
Fishguard	9.4	-	16	61	s	Scarboro'	2.1	-	13	55	b
Folkestone	12.1	-	14	57	s	Shrewsbury	8.9	-	15	59	s
Glasgow	6.7	-	15	59	s	Skegness	8.5	-	14	57	s
Guernsey	11.0	-	18	61	s	Southport	8.3	-	15	59	s
Hastings	11.8	-	14	57	s	Southsea	9.5	-	13	55	s
Hayling I.	10.8	-	14	57	s	Stornoway	0.5	0.04	11	52	r
Herne Bay	11.8	-	13	55	s	Swanage	11.1	-	10	50	s
Hove	10.5	-	14	57	s	Teignmouth	11.3	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	X	-	15	59	b	Tenby	9.9	-	13	55	s
Ilfracombe	X					Torquay	11.7	-	13	55	s
Isle of Man	6.4	-	11	52	s	Tynemouth		-	15	59	c
Jersey	12.0	-	16	61	s	West-s-mare	10.5	-	17	63	s
Kinloss	X					Weymouth	12.5	-	12	54	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	19	66	s	Corfu	12	54	c	Majorca	19	66	f
Alicante	15	59	s	C'phagn	6	43	f	Malaga	21	70	s
Amst'dm	20	68	f	Dublin	13	55	c	Malta	17	63	c
Algiers	21	70	f	Dubrovnik	6	43	f	Melb'rne	14	57	f
Amst'dm	8	46	s	Faro	20	68	s	Mexico C	23	73	s
Athens	9	48	f	Florence	17	63	s	Miami	27	81	s
B Aires	27	81	s	Frankfurt	8	46	s	Milan	17	63	s
Bahrain	25	77	s	Funchal	21	70	s	Montreal	5	41	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	11	52	s	Moscow	3	37	s
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	21	70	s	Munich	6	43	s
Barcelona	18	64	s	Helsinki	3	37	s	N Delhi	27	81	s
Beirut	14	57	f	Hong K	21	70	f	N York	22	72	s
Belgrade	5	41	c	Innsbruck	8	46	s	Nairobi	25	77	f
Berlin	7	45	f	Istanbul	7	45	f	Naples	14	57	s
Bermuda	18	64	s	Jeddah	29	84	s	Nice	18	64	s
Biarritz	19	66	s	Jo'burg	14	57	s	Oslo	5	41	s
Borde'x	20	68	s	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	14	57	s
Brussels	8	46	s	L Palmes	23	73	c	Peking	17	63	c
Budapst	5	41	f	Le Touet	11	52	s	Perth	24	75	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Lisbon	22	72	f	Prague	5	41	f
Cape Tn	19	66	f	Locarno	16	61	s	Reykjavik	8	46	d
Ch'church	22	72	X	Luxembg	9	48	s	Rhodes	14	57	f
Chicago	3	37	s	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	25	77	f
Cologne	9	48	s	Madrid	20	68	f	Riyadh	31	88	s
								Rome	17	63	f
								S Fr'isco	14	57	s
								S Paulo	19	66	c
								Salzburg	5	41	f
								Santiago	25	77	s
								Seoul	18	64	s
								Sing'por	32	90	s
								St'kholm	5	41	c
								Strasb'rg	11	52	s
								Sydney	16	61	s
								Tangier	21	70	f
								Tel Aviv	13	55	f
								Tenerife	23	73	s
								Tokyo	15	59	f
								Toronto	1	34	sn
								Tunis	20	68	s
								Valencia	18	64	f
								Vanc'ver	11	52	c
								Venice	12	54	s
								Vienna	5	41	f
								Warsaw	4	39	f
								Wash'ton	22	72	s
								Wel'ngton	19	66	X
								Zurich	9	48	s

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	03.49	7.5	16.17	7.6	Leith	04.33	5.8	16.54	5.9
Aberdeen	03.18	4.4	15.32	4.5	Liverpool	01.06	9.9	13.26	10.1
Avonmouth	09.24	14.3	21.41	14.1	Lowestoft	11.39	2.5	23.49	2.7
Boston	00.57	3.5	13.17	3.6	Margate	01.51	4.9	14.27	4.8
Cardiff	09.10	13.1	21.27	13.0	Milford Haven	08.22	7.5	20.42	7.3
Devonport	07.59	5.7	20.21	5.6	Newquay	07.13	7.5	19.33	7.3
Dover	00.49	7.0	13.13	6.8	Oban	07.54	4.2	20.02	4.0
Dublin (N Wall)	01.27	4.3	13.43	4.5	Penzance	06.43	5.9	19.03	5.7
Falmouth	07.30	5.5	19.52	5.4	Portland	08.13	2.2	21.26	2.2
Greenock	02.27	3.4	14.51	3.6	Portsmouth	01.07	4.9	13.25	4.8
Harwich	01.42	4.3	14.08	4.2	Shoreham	01.03	6.6	13.24	6.5
Holyhead	00.07	5.8	12.27	6.0	Southampton	00.37	4.8	12.55	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	08.21	9.1	20.34	9.4	Swansea	06.27	10.2	20.47	9.9
Ilfracombe	08.09	9.9	20.27	9.7	Tees	05.44	5.6	17.59	5.7
King's Lynn	08.33	7.1	20.42	7.4	Walton-on-N	01.31	4.4	14.00	4.4

All times GMT Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

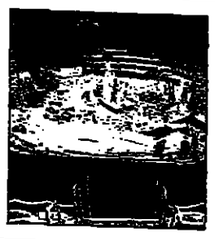
Sun rises: 6.18 am
Sun sets: 7.47 pm
London 7.47 pm to 6.16 am
Bristol 7.57 pm to 6.26 am
Edinburgh 8.07 pm to 6.20 am
Manchester 7.56 pm to 6.21 am
Penzance 8.07 pm to 6.40 am
Moon sets 10.27 pm
Moon rises 7.37 am
First quarter April 14

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 1997

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How theatre in the round came to the National
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Brenda Maddox on voices that stop the waffle
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Will Staines find streets of London paved with gold?
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Profits overtake arch-rival

Tesco pulls clear of J Sainsbury

By Sarah Cunningham

TESCO notched up another victory over J Sainsbury in *the battle of the superstores* by overtaking it in group profits for the first time.

In the 12 months to February 22 pre-tax profits rose to £750 million from £685 million a year ago. Sainsbury's issued a profit warning in January, saying that its 1996-97 group *profit will be between £640* million and £650 million.

The *results drove* Tesco's shares 11½p higher to 364p and also dragged shares in rival superstore groups Asda and Safeway higher in their wake. Asda was up 4½p to 112p and Safeway rose the same amount to 369p. Of the big four, only J Sainsbury — *displaced by Tesco from the* top spots in market capitalisation, *market share and now* profits — saw its shares fall 5p to 328p.

Tesco's like-for-like sales were 7.5 per cent higher during the year and 6 per cent higher in the first four weeks of this year. The current sector average is nearer 3 per cent.

The company noted a sharp fall in supermarket inflation, which has come down from 3.5 per cent last year to 1 per cent in recent weeks. The 1 per cent is mainly from petrol; some foodstuffs, particularly fresh produce, have seen dramatic price falls.

However, City worries about the fall in inflation were *offset by reassurances about* stable profit margins. Tesco continues to attack costs in the supply chain. It has already cut £20 million and is aiming for £100 million savings.

Analysts either left their forecasts for the current year alone or edged them up to between *£805 and £810 million.*

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, who retires as chairman in June, said market share rose from 13.7 per cent to 14.5 per cent in the year to December 1996, putting it 2 per cent ahead of J Sainsbury, still its nearest rival.

He dismissed talk of a new supermarket price war: "If *anyone starts a price war now* it will be very short term," he said. The petrol price war of last year, which has now ended, cost Tesco £35 million.

Lord MacLaurin also dismissed speculation that Tesco may decide to bid for, or join a consortium to bid for, the *Littlewoods chain of 135 high* street shops. Tesco has received the sales memorandum, but is "fully occupied" with recent acquisitions.

Tesco bought Associated British Foods's Irish food retailing businesses last month for £630 million. Lord MacLaurin said he expected the deal to receive European Commission approval in the next few days and for Tesco to take control of the Irish stores at the end of this month.

Gearing at the year end was *19.3 per cent, but the ABF* acquisition has since pushed *this up to about 40 per cent.*

Tesco is planning to invest £100 million in its central European business this year and about £15 million in Catteau, its French chain. It has already added one French store this year and has plans to open a second large store in Budapest. *In 1998 it aims to* add a further six to eight stores in Central Europe.

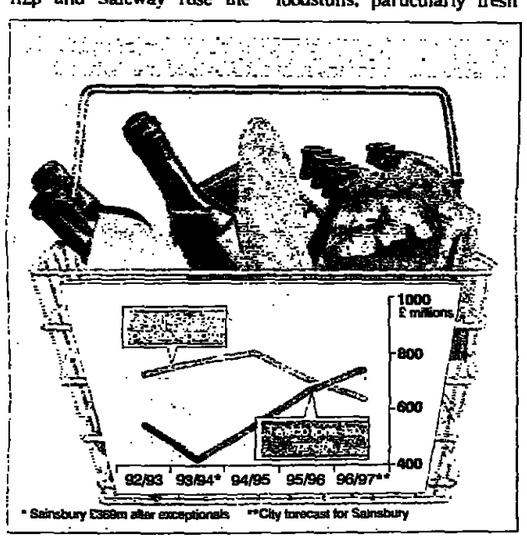
Closer to home, the handover of Clubcard Plus, the Tesco loyalty card now held by 190,000 customers, *from NatWest to Royal Bank* of Scotland, Tesco's new personal finance partner, is under way. An enhanced version will be launched in the early summer, quickly followed by Tesco Personal Finance's first major product, a credit card.

Tesco expects to open 26 new stores in the UK in the coming year, equal to 600,000 square feet. A further 200,000 sq ft of selling space will be added through extensions.

Earnings per share were 23.5p (21.9p). A final dividend of 7.1p (6.65p), due on July 1, gives a total for the year of 10.35p (9.6p).

Tempus, page 28

Pennington, page 27



* Sainsbury £369m after exceptionals **City forecast for Sainsbury

GILL ALLEN



Brian Ivory, chief executive of Highland Distilleries, celebrates a 12 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £25 million and a dividend of 2.1p Tempus, page 28

Freeman to rejoin Salomon from EBRD

By Oliver August

RON FREEMAN, vice-president of the European Bank for *Reconstruction and Development* (EBRD), resigned yesterday to take up a high-profile position at Salomon Brothers in London.

The respected Wall Street banker is returning to his former employers as the most senior executive in charge of *European investment* operations. He will report directly to Deryck Maughan, the executive chairman in New York, bypassing Peter Middleton, the chief executive in London.

Mr Freeman spent 18 years at Salomon before being recruited in 1991 by Jacques Attali, *the EBRD's founding* president. M Attali left the bank in 1993, his reputation crushed by controversy over big spending at the EBRD's lavish London headquarters.

The search for a successor to Mr Freeman remained shrouded in mystery after the *preferred candidate first withdrew* his name only to throw his hat back in the ring last night. The candidate, who would be responsible for the EBRD's £2 billion per annum investment activities in Eastern Europe, was expected to be proposed to the board yesterday.

The appointment, originally expected before next weekend's annual meeting in London, has been overshadowed by an internal dispute over the nationality of Mr Freeman's successor. According to a verbal agreement between the bank's 57 member *countries, the first vice-president* should be American. But Belgian bank employees are campaigning against the agreement in a bid to have one of their own appointed to Mr Freeman's position. The EBRD yesterday denied that the delay was directly related to internal wranglings.

It said: "The process is under way to choose a successor. A candidate will be submitted to the EBRD's board of directors as soon as possible."

The Halifax offers float share choices

HALIFAX Building Society *has given details of* the dealing service that it will offer the eight million customers who will receive shares when it makes its £10 billion stock market debut in the summer.

Investors who decide to keep their shares will be able to hold them in a new Halifax "shareholder account", put them in a single company Halifax personal equity plan, or ask for a share certificate.

Those who decide to sell will be able to do so free of charge for a certain period of time using the Halifax's share-dealing service

The shares are expected to be worth an average of £1,300 per member. If the Halifax follows a similar pattern as the Abbey National, *about a quarter of* shareholders will sell in the first few months after the flotation.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4269.3	(-2.4)
Yield	3.78%	
FTSE All share	2077.19	(-0.69)
Nikkei	18021.70	(+306.03)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6541.58	(-14.35)*
S&P Composite	759.84	(-2.29)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5⅛%*	(5⅛%)
Long Bond	94¹⁄₃₂*	(94¹⁵⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.11%*	(7.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¹⁵⁄₁₆%	(6¹⁵⁄₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	109²⁄₃₂	(109¹⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6235*	(1.6278)
London:		
$	1.6234	(1.6297)
DM	2.7775	(2.7884)
FFr	9.3473	(9.3823)
SFr	2.3869	(2.3924)
Yen	204.63	(204.94)
£ Index	99.1	(99.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7110*	(1.7123)
FFr	5.7540*	(5.7625)
SFr	1.4690*	(1.4688)
Yen	126.03*	(125.63)
$ Index	105.5	(105.4)

Tokyo close Yen 125.86

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$18.10	($18.00)

GOLD

London close	$348.45	($349.30)

* denotes midday trading price

Lloyd's move

Commercial Union has become the first big British composite insurer to become an active participant in the Lloyd's of London insurance market by taking a half share of the Marlborough Underwriting Agency.
Page 26, Tempus 28

£1bn claim

Shareholders in Sumitomo have launched a £1 billion damages claim against five executives for *failing to* prevent huge losses on copper trading. **Page 30**

Tarmac weighs up suitors for Castle

By Paul Durman

TARMAC, Britain's largest construction group, is considering *two offers for Castle* Plant Services, its plant hire business. Neville Simms, Tarmac chief executive, said Castle will be sold if the price is right.

Castle, which includes the plant hire business acquired as part of last year's asset swap with George *Wimpey*, has 560 employees and annual sales of £60 million. Robin Hardy, analyst with Panmure Gordon, suggested that it could be worth about £50 million.

Tarmac is keen to reduce its borrowings, which, at £350.6 *million, represent* 45 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Tarmac yesterday reported annual pre-tax profits of £10.5 million (£20.3 million) after £65 million of restructuring costs in the wake of the Wimpey deal. *Operating profit* from the continuing construction and building materials businesses rose nearly 30 per cent, to £124 million, mainly because of operations acquired from Wimpey.

Annual savings from the reorganisation will be £38 million, nearly twice the original target. This helped to lift Tarmac shares 11p, to 115p.

Mr Simms said that the current year had begun well, *and the outlook was more* positive than for some time. He believed a Labour government might make it easier to secure funding for private finance initiative work.

Problems with the design business created from the former PSA Projects led Tarmac Professional Services to lose £4.7 million.

A 2.5p final dividend, due on June 20, keeps the total at 5.5p, just covered by earnings (before exceptional items) of the same amount, down from 7.5p in 1995.

Barings offer to be made soon

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

THOUSANDS of Barings bondholders, who lost £275 *million in the 1995 crash, can* expect to hear details shortly of a compensation offer.

Inquiries by *The Times* have established that complex negotiations, brokered by the City Disputes Panel, are nearly complete, with a number of parties contributing to the settlement. Any deal will need court approval.

Those in line for the payout include many elderly investors who bought into one or more of the three bond and loan note issues, attracted by high interest rates. Others to receive compensation payments are expected to be the large life and pension funds, such as Legal & General and *Scottish Amicable.*

The investors are split into three categories: those who invested in the first $150 million note issued in 1986, followed by a second $150 million note, issued in 1994, and the 1994 Perpetual Bondholders. Investors in the 1994 issue should fare better than the others because the money was lent onto one of the companies in the Barings securities arm that is still trading. Their payout will not cover the full amount lost.

The 1994 Bondholders will not receive anything like the full amount invested and the sum is likely to be nearer 25 per cent of the original investment. The Barings preference shareholders, however, will *receive nothing.*

The main contributors to the settlement, which will fall far short of the total lost, are believed to be the parties, and their insurers, which are being pursued through the law *courts. These include Cazenove*, BZW, part of Barclays, Hoare Govett, the broking arm of ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, and Coopers & Lybrand and Deloitte & Touche, auditors to the Barings group.



Big screen shoots a winner for Cassell



Field of romance: Colin Firth and Ruth Gemmell, stars of Fever Pitch

By Morag Preston

SALES of *Fever Pitch*, the novel by Nick Hornby about a football fan, have increased fivefold since the release of the film version, starring Colin Firth, according to Cassell, the independent *publishing company.*

Fever Pitch, Hornby's first book, published by Cassell in 1992, is back in the the top ten paperback non-fiction list. *High Fidelity*, Hornby's second novel, is still in the top ten paperback fiction list after 48 weeks.

Hornby's next book is not expected to be published until 1998 and now Cassell is searching for another unknown author destined for the bestseller list. "Our success has been spotting a book, a trend, an author, and bringing them to the market," said Philip Sturrock, chairman of Cassell, who acquired the company in a management buy-in from CBS, the US broadcaster, in 1986 and brought it *to market eight years later.* Last year's launch of *The Lost Gardens of Heligan*, currently top of the non-fiction bestsellers list, helped to establish Cassell as a profitable niche player, in spite of discount pressures from publishing conglomerates since the breakdown of the Net Book Agreement. Since the sale of the Victor *Gollancz children's list for £870,000 to* Penguin last year, Cassell has concentrated on its general publishing, academic and religious divisions. Projects for this year include a CD-Rom of the latest edition of the *Cassell Concise English Dictionary*, a new Terry Pratchett novel, and another cookery book by Mrs Beeton.

Yesterday, Cassell reported 1996 pre-tax profits of down at £712,000 (£736,000). However, 1995 were boosted by two exceptional credits totalling more than £1 million. Sales rose 10 per cent, to £24.4 million, giving rise to an operating profit of £1.15 million, against losses of £43,000 previously. Earnings were 8.6p a share, down *from 8.9p last time. The final dividend* is held at 3p a share, leaving the total unchanged at 4.5p. The shares rose 6½p to 91½p yesterday.

CU takes stake in Lloyd's manager

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL UNION is the first big UK composite insurer to become an active participant in Lloyd's of London by paying £2.9 million for half of Marlborough Underwriting Agency Ltd (MUAL).

The deal, which had been under negotiation since January, gives CU access to three syndicates managed by MUAL. It also enriches the agent's eight partners. Known collectively as the Blenheim Partnership, they will share in the £2.9 million cash payment.

CU will acquire 51 per cent of MUAL, with an option to buy the remainder in five years. In the interim, the 49 per cent stake will be held by the Blenheim Partnership, which will be seeking further underwriters to join the grouping in this period to expand the business, which has a capacity of £80 million at present. Angus Sladen, managing director of MUAL, said: "We have not yet decided how the cash will be distributed, but the partners will be the main beneficiaries. However, I am 46 and I have no plans to retire. I intend to build this business up.

"By the end of five years if CU exercises its option we hope to have a bigger cake, which others can share in."

MUAL manages Syndicates 62 and 744 that write marine business, and 1047, which specialises in professional indemnity business.

Analysts said that the deal would have a minimal effect on CU's balance sheet. Shares fell 6¼p to 646½p.

CU said the business would be developed and managed independently from its other London market operations.

Cees Schrauwers, managing director of CU's UK Non-Life operation, said: "We believe that the London market will continue to be of vital importance within the world's insurance markets. The recent reforms allow us to participate in Lloyd's."

CU said that MUAL's 1992, 1993, and 1994 results were profitable, and satisfactory results were forecast for the 1995 account.

Sir David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, welcomed the purchase, saying it represented a significant vote of confidence in the future of Lloyd's and in the wider London market.

The Association of Lloyd's Members said that the deal signalled another shift in the ownership and control of Lloyd's business and, arguably, further eroded the rights of Lloyd's traditional names.

Tempus, page 28

Bank chief warning on EMU

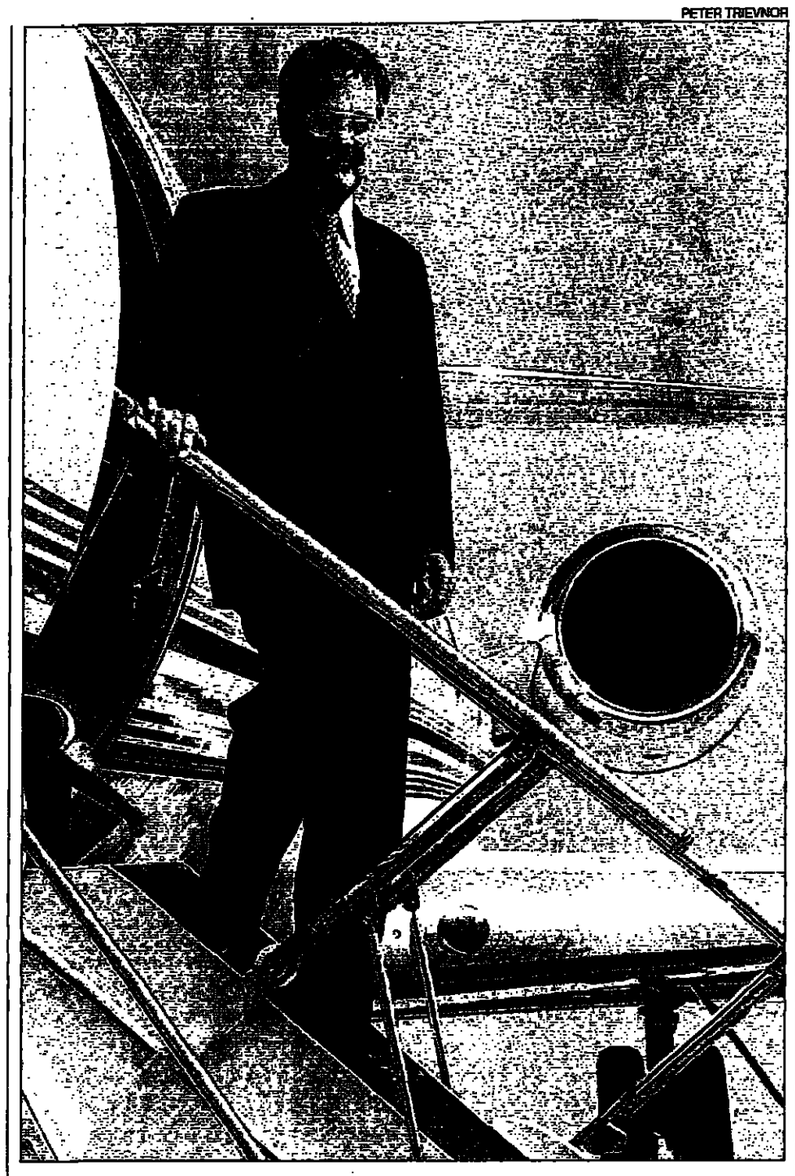
BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday issued a warning that moving towards a single currency without adhering to the Maastricht criteria could lead to economic weakness and high unemployment in Europe.

Mr George, who was speaking at the Gulf Economic Forum in Bahrain, said the introduction of a single interest rate with EMU could prove to be inappropriate to the needs of different countries.

He added that he did not see the single currency as a necessary complement to the single market, although he conceded that a single exchange rate would bring benefits.

PETER TRIEVNOR



BRYAN MOSS, vice-chairman of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, leaving the world's fastest long-range executive jet after it arrived yesterday at Stansted, from Los Angeles, in the record-breaking time of nine hours and 13 minutes, well ahead of regular commercial flights (Jon Ashworth writes). The $35 million Gulfstream V (GV) is on a week-long round-the-world flag-waving tour. Mr Moss flies on today to Hong Kong, en route to Beijing, Tokyo and New York. There are now 70 firm orders for the GV, which competes with the Bombardier Global Express, now undergoing flight testing. The aircraft averaged Mach 0.85 to Mach 0.87 on the UK leg of its tour, cruising at 45,000ft, and landed with four hours' fuel to spare. Gulfstream is controlled by Theodore "Teddy" Forstmann, the Wall Street corporate raider.

Millions in freight grants left unused

BY ADAM JONES

MILLIONS of pounds set aside by the Government to encourage companies to use more environmentally-friendly forms of transport have not been distributed. Between 1985 and 1996, £70 million was supposed to be handed out by the Department of Transport under the freight facilities grant scheme.

The scheme, introduced in 1974, encourages companies to move freight by rail or inland waterway, rather than road. The grants are payable towards the capital cost of facilities and equipment, such as freight terminals.

However, just £32 million of the budgeted £70 million was paid out between 1985 and 1996. Much of the surplus money has been spent elsewhere in the department.

The amount of freight transferred annually from road to rail in that period dropped by about 38 per cent, while the amount of road freight increased steadily.

Yesterday, the Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts said: "The department [of Transport] could have done more to promote the scheme to prospective applicants."

Robert Sheldon, the committee chairman, said he was astonished that, before 1994, no account was taken of any reduction in congestion.

The MPs also said the criteria for eligibility may be too demanding. Applicants are required to provide ten-year traffic forecasts. In a sample period between 1992 and 1995, only nine per cent were successful.

A CBI spokeswoman said: "The Department of Transport hasn't promoted the grants effectively. It also takes a long time to process them, which puts off business applicants."

Cellnet to invest £57m in The Link

BY ERIC REGULY

CELLNET, the mobile phone company controlled by British Telecom, has agreed to invest up to £57 million in The Link, the high street retailer owned by Dixons.

The investment was described as a "strategic alliance" and will lead to the development of new telecoms products. It is expected to create 750 jobs over the next three years by expanding The Link from its current 87 branches to more than 200.

Cellnet paid £25 million for a 40 per cent stake in The Link and will contribute another £32 million, depending on certain performance targets being reached. They relate largely to the number of Cellnet customers recruited by The Link over the next five years.

John Clare, Dixons' chief executive, said the Cellnet investment will accelerate The Link's expansion. The chain was launched in 1994 and sells fixed and mobile phones, phone connections, faxes, pagers and personal organisers.

In the year to April 1996, The Link reported a pre-tax loss of £2.9 million on turnover of £21 million. Dixons expects The Link to make a profit this financial year.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

YOUR CHANCE TO MEET JOHN MAJOR



Next Tuesday is your chance to tell John Major what you think about his government. You can also ask him what he would do with five more years in power. This is a unique opportunity for readers of The Times and The Sunday Times to have a say in the general election campaign with the most powerful man in the country

The Prime Minister will speak for about 20 minutes before answering questions from the audience. The event, to be held in central London on Tuesday, April 15, will take place between 8pm and 9.30pm.

Tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 each (£7.50 for students, pensioners and unemployed). To book your tickets simply telephone First Call on 0171-420 0000. Lines are open 24 hours. There is no booking fee. All major credit and payment cards are accepted

Report on gas from MMC nears completion

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission report that will determine whether BG, the former British Gas, must forfeit up to £650 million in revenues is on course for completion on Monday in spite of yesterday's last-minute appearance at the MMC by the gas regulator.

The MMC must seek a postponement from Ofgas, the gas watchdog, if it wants to delay the report, but it has not yet sought one. The calling to the commission of Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, fuelled speculation that the report may favour BG rather than the regulator.

The row between Ofgas and BG is over price curbs planned by the regulator for Transco, the monopoly pipeline business, with the valuation of the network a crucial factor in the dispute.

Ms Spottiswoode had demanded reductions in the prices that Transco charges the users of its network, including the demerged domestic half of the old British Gas, Centrica, of 20 per cent next year and thereafter by 2.5 per cent less than the retail prices index for four years. Although the regulator modified earlier proposals, BG argued that the cuts would mean the loss of thousands of jobs and were based on an unfair valuation of assets.

Once the report is complete it will be sent to the regulator who must then pass on copies to the President of the Board of Trade and BG.

Victory puts back launch of Virgin Clothing

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

VICTORY CORPORATION is to delay the launch of its new Virgin-backed casual clothing business by six months. The business, which is now called the Virgin Clothing Company rather than Virgin Jeans, will be launched in the autumn rather than the spring of 1998.

Victory, which floated on AIM last year, said yesterday that the launch had been put back because it wants to offer a wider range of products. Men's shoes and accessories are being added to the jeans and casual clothes already included in the range, which will be sold through several clothing retailers.

A spokesman said that financial projections for the next six months will be hit by the delay, but a quick recovery is expected after the launch. No profit is expected until the year 2000.

Shares in Victory, which came to the market at 58p amid a flurry of excitement over the involvement of Richard Branson, the Virgin boss, have since fallen back to a low of 48p. Yesterday they rallied 1p to close at 49p.

Virgin owns 10.6 per cent of Victory Corporation and, separately, 50 per cent of the Virgin Clothing Company and 30 per cent of Virgin Cosmetics.

Virgin Cosmetics is still expecting to launch at the end of this year. Its first retail site, in south London, has been secured and it hopes for another three or four by Christmas.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02	Malta	0.656	0.601
Austria Sch	20.52	19.02	Netherlds Gld	3.291	3.041
Belgium Fr	60.42	55.92	New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Canada $	2.368	2.186	Norway Kr	11.85	11.05
Cyprus Cypr	0.862	0.802	Portugal Esc	290.50	270.50
Denmark Kr	11.15	10.35	S Africa Rd	7.79	6.99
Finland Mkk	8.62	8.14	Spain Pta	245.50	228.50
France Fr	9.80	9.10	Sweden Kr	13.25	12.25
Germany Dm	2.94	2.72	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.33
Greece Dr	453	427	Turkey Lira	216705	202705
Hong Kong $	13.32	12.22	USA $	1.729	1.593
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01			
Israel Shk	5.76	5.13			
Italy Lira	2892	2692			
Japan Yen	218.60	202.60			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Central banks sign supervision pact

CENTRAL BANK watchdogs from the world's leading economies yesterday signed up to a new 25-point plan that is intended to strengthen international supervision and to improve cross-border co-operation. Under the auspices of the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision, and with the endorsement of the central bank governors of the Group of Ten countries, the basic Basle principles will cover areas such as how to measure risk in different jurisdictions.

The Basle plan, which is also backed by 15 emerging market countries, is intended to establish a framework within which bank regulators can collect, review and analyse prudential reports and statistical returns. This is not just in a domestic context, but also within the international banking system. The new bank principles also set out how supervisors "must require the local operations of foreign banks to be conducted to the same high standards as are required of domestic institutions". The principles add: "They must have powers to share information needed by the home country supervisors of those banks for the purpose of carrying out consolidated supervision." A spokesman for the Bank of England said yesterday: "We welcome the Basle announcement as a major contribution to improving supervisory standards worldwide."

Vymura payout rises

VYMURA, the wallcovering manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits from £2.4 million to £4.4 million in the year to December 31 on sales up 17 per cent to £43.8 million. Total dividends rise from 4.7p to 5.0p after a rise in the final from 3.1p to 3.4p. Earnings rise from 7.10p to 11.9p. The company managed to reduce gearing from 40 per cent to zero during the year. First-quarter sales, however, are running slightly below the level's of 1996 although the group says cost reductions made last year are helping profit margins. The shares rose 1p to 181½p.

Frederick Cooper slips

FREDERICK COOPER, the specialist coatings, housewares and architectural hardware group, is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.85p a share after suffering a fall in pre-tax profits to £776,000 in the half-year to the end of January, down from the £1.7 million made last time. Profits were affected by a £1.1 million goodwill charge arising from a disposal. Earnings fell 0.1p a share, from 2.3p previously. Ed Kirk, chairman, said that the company remained concerned about the current strength of sterling, which adversely affected the profitability of exports.

Royal Bank move in US

CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP, US subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland, is to buy a bank in Connecticut for $57 million. Citizens is expected to complete the cash purchase of Bank of New Haven from BNH Bancshares, a holding company, in late summer. Last year, Bank of New Haven made a pre-tax profit of $2.1 million, up from $777,000 in 1995. Royal Bank, which owns 76.5 per cent of Citizens, the rest being held by Bank of Ireland, said the deal is a logical extension of existing business in Connecticut.

Biocompatibles buy

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the medical coatings company, is issuing £7.44 million of shares and paying $10,000 (£6,100) in cash to acquire rights to Surfacine, a coating that kills a wide range of bacteria. The consideration will give Biocompatibles ownership of BioPolymerix, an American company, under a deal agreed in principle two weeks ago. Shares in Biocompatibles continued their strong run yesterday, rising 45p to £12.57½ — 87½p above the notional price of the shares issued for BioPolymerix.

Oasis shows growth

OASIS, the women's fashion retailer, is planning to continue its expansion in the UK, Ireland and Germany after a 42 per cent rise in profits last year. In the 12 months to January 25, pre-tax profit was £15.6 million compared with £11 million a year earlier. Like-for-like sales rose 12.5 per cent last year. The number of stores increased from 82 to 108 and a further five opened in March. Earnings per share rose from 14.02p to 19.51p. A final dividend of 4.9p, to be paid on June 24, makes a total 7p (3.33p). The shares were 12p higher at 398½p.

IBC advances 10%

IBC, the conferences and publishing group, lifted pre-tax profits 10 per cent, to £13.7 million, in 1996, helped by strong demand for its industry information services. Earnings were 27.8p (25.1p) a share. A final dividend of 6p, due on May 30, lifts the total to 9.3p (8p). The strength of sterling shaved £500,000 from profits. IBC said. The company said that it could spend up to £35 million in acquisitions this year, probably in the publishing sector. Operating cashflow advanced 43 per cent, to £16.4 million during the period.

QS reduces losses

QS HOLDINGS, the clothing retailer, reduced pre-tax losses to £148,000, from £702,000, in the 52 weeks to January 25, but the company is again passing the payment of a final dividend. Turnover improved to £59.2 million, from £54.4 million, with a 7.3 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the second half. The company ended the year with net cash of £1.5 million, compared with debts of £438,000 at the end of the previous year. The loss per share was 0.39p (1.53p loss). There was no interim dividend (1.56p previously).

Venture fund gains

THE net asset value of Thompson Clive Investments, the venture capital fund, increased by 16.6 per cent to 402.5p in 1996. The return on ordinary activities, including unrealised investment gains, totalled £8.56 million (£14.93 million) before tax. Revenue before tax totalled £866,000 (£415,000). New investments included a UK opto-electronics company and a US firm providing products and services for Internet access. Earnings per share rose from 2.3p to 4.8p. A dividend of 3.8p (3.8p) is due to be paid on June 5.



"Where can I sell my beautiful home?"

See p.3 Property Supplement

☐ Still doubts over supermarkets' recovery ☐ Advisers' plans for financial services ☐ Halifax's little extra help

Store Wars: special edition

☐ THE supermarkets are the country's biggest and most profitable cartel. Before a thousand lawyers reach greedily for their winter holiday brochures, it is an entirely legal cartel, and one that has fallen apart under competitive pressure before and will do so again.

A cartel is defined as a union to control prices. Illegal cartels meet in smoke-filled rooms. Legal ones, such as the supermarkets, employ staff to visit each other's branches and check on prices, and then adjust theirs accordingly. The effect, one might think, is the same.

The opposite of a cartel is a price war. Verdict, the retail consultancy, upset an already nervous stock market in January by predicting two or three more years of price wars from the supermarkets. The grocers themselves were worrying about an inexplicable fall in sales in the first few weeks of this year. There have been signs of a recovery since, with shares edging up again even before annual figures from Tesco, the market leader still, that came in a month ahead of the rest of the big three.

Lord MacLaurin, the chairman, made two significant comments. The chances of another prolonged price war breaking out were not great. Tesco's leadership in loyalty schemes, those bonus cards offering delayed discounts on future purchases, was unassailable, always provided these were marketed properly.

These two remarks should be preserved in a cool, dark place, and could provide useful examples a few years hence of corporate *hubris*. Tesco sales grew by 6 per cent in real terms in the few weeks since its February 22 year-end, double the market average. Impressive, even if that average itself suggests a recovery across the sector from conditions earlier this year. Extrapolating from industry data, Tesco also says its market share had grown from 14.2 per cent last June to 14.5 per cent.

The shares rose, as analysts marked this year's profits estimates ahead. Shares in Safeway and Asda, this last seen as having lagged behind the rest, rose too; Sainsbury fell, on the grounds that Tesco's market share gains must have come from somewhere, and the company has become a convenient whipping boy.

The argument is that with food price inflation running at next to nothing, and the price of imported goods falling sharply because of the strong pound, there is no scope for sales to rise naturally. The sensible option is to improve margins, and this means avoiding a price war.

Splendid reasoning, but only if the cartel holds together, and there have been signs some smaller grocers are already cutting the price of commodity foodstuffs. Even legal cartels do not always behave sensibly. Those analysts busy marking up forecasts yesterday were noticeably unwilling to translate this into formal buy notes. The food retailing sector could be in for a few more shocks yet.

Passing the regulatory parcel

☐ LABOUR'S once-radical plans for City regulation now seem to have shrunk to a short Bill enabling the next chairman of the Securities and Investments Board to take over the rest of the known regulatory world, should he or she wish to do so. This is beginning to look inadequate.

Many now agree that a structure seating the SIB over second tier regulators is a better recipe for passing the parcel, and the blame, than for decisive action. The SIB's relations with the struggling Personal Investment Authority are particularly frustrating for consumers.



Fiddling around with structure again is not, however, likely to achieve much gain. *Changing the Prescription*, a manifesto being sent by the Independent Financial Advisers Association to election candidates, urges a more functional reform of what regulation of retail financial services is aiming to achieve.

Gary Heath, the Association's chief executive, alleges that the vast cash and administrative cost of regulation is not earning much dividend in customers' faith in the industry's products. He argues that more products need to be brought into the net if customers are to understand and have faith in regulation.

To that end, the IFAs suggest a general distinction between insurance products covering the person and insurance covering things or services. All the former should come under retail financial regulation, but not the rest.

Ministers will be tempted to put off any such reform until the EU gets round to its insurance directive in the next millennium. This could be a big mistake.

The top priority is long-term care plans, the most likely source of a new scandal. Government plans to regulate them were forestalled by the election but even if a Labour government gave them less encouragement, this growing market needs more consumer protection.

Meanwhile, the IFAs argue that directors of big pension, insurance and fund management groups should be personally liable for misconduct by their company. Since individual IFAs have found themselves at the sharp end of regulation, this insight suggests that personalising blame is one element in regulation that works.

Shares can go up as well as down

☐ THE Halifax has moved with customary efficiency to ensure the best of both worlds for its members. Those who want to stay in after this summer's flotation are offered an easy method, without any fiddling around with easily lost share certificates. Others are offered a free sale, a revolving door that carries them into share ownership and out again immediately, clutching the cash.

Admirable — except that most members should delay taking such an easy exit. The Halifax is right to offer one, so long as it is not sold too hard. There will always be a minority who want nothing to do with the stock market, through ideological conviction or the sheer terror of owning shares and watching the value of their investment rise and fall each day. Market research by MORI, on behalf of the Halifax, suggests only a small proportion of the eight million members, less than one in ten, may want to sell, but even a million people selling in the week or so after flotation creates a huge logistical problem.

Instead, their shares will be bundled up for City institutions that would otherwise have to hunt around on the market for shares — and, heaven forbid, pay over the odds for them.

It must be said, and it will be said many times in the next few weeks, that too early an exit from the Halifax may deprive investors of significant later gains, as index-tracking institutions, for example, look to top up their holdings by the year end. Think of it as a wealth warning: the value of your Halifax shares can go up as well as down.

Fever pitch

☐ AN analysis of football transfer fees by Bill Gerrard and Steve Dobson, given to the Scottish Economics Society, finds that panic buying by clubs in the relegation zone puts a premium of up to 28 per cent on prices at the spring transfer deadline. Many clubs recently floated to raise cash are in danger of relegation. No doubt it makes perfect sense for investors to pay through the nose for players.

RJB optimistic on prospects after reaching £189m

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RJB MINING, Britain's biggest coal producer, yesterday brushed aside fears for the long-term future of UK coal with optimism pinned on a new government's energy policy and the company's ability to boost efficiency.

As the company, formed from the bulk of British Coal's English and Welsh collieries, announced a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, Richard Budge, chief executive, said that he was confident that a new government from either of the main parties would establish an energy policy that would ensure a role for coal.

Mr Budge said that it was important for jobs in Nottinghamshire and other mining areas that British coal was not sidelined in favour of gas or of coal from overseas. He said: "This country will need a long-term coal business. Without a UK coal industry, we would become over-dependent on gas."

In the year to December 31, RJB Mining's pre-tax increased 9.3 per cent, to £189.2 million, although sales fell 10.5 per cent, to £1.3 billion. The company was hit by deepening losses at its Asfordby pit, which was £19.9 million in the red, against £16.3 million the previous year. Mr Budge said that the pit, where production methods have been changed, would break even this year.

Cost reductions across the business, including this year's pay freeze on higher-paid staff, remained fundamental, Mr Budge said.

The final dividend, due on May 23, is set at 12p, making a total for the year of 20p, up 25 per cent on 1995.

RJB Mining has confounded many critics with its profits since the sale of British Coal, but it faces increasing market pressures. Electricity generation is increasingly turning to gas, and world coal prices are falling, exacerbated for UK coal by the strength of sterling.

Crucially, RJB also faces renegotiation of contracts with the generators after the expiry next year of long-term arrangements set in place by the Government when it sold British Coal. Mr Budge said that this week's deal with National Power for development of a clean coal power station underlined the future for UK coal.

Talks with the generators are under way now to replace contracts that will end next March, and both sides are talking up the strength of their position.

These are the first talks involving a privatised electricity industry that has no commitment to buy British coal, although it is logistically tied to taking substantial amounts because of the proximity of power stations and coalfields. Mr Budge said that no contracts had been agreed yet.

Pakistan gas find fuels increase in Lasmo share price

BY CARL MORTISHED

LASMO, the oil exploration group, has made an important gas discovery in Pakistan. Initial estimates from the Bhit-2 well suggest the field, located in Western Sindh could contain up to two trillion cubic feet of gas, equivalent to almost a fifth of Lasmo's existing oil and gas reserves.

Shares in the oil company jumped 11p to 234p yesterday as the market assessed the implications for Lasmo's net worth. Richard Savage, analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, believes the field could be worth 10-15p per share. "This is brilliant news for Lasmo. The field represents about 18 per cent of its reserve base or 180 per cent of estimated 1997 production."

The Bhit-2 well was drilled without seismic data. A spokesman for Lasmo said: "We drilled the well on the basis of a surface geological feature — a big dome which is apparently visible from the moon." The well showed a flow rate of 17.7 million cubic feet per day and the company reckons it could flow at 60 million cubic feet per day. Lasmo will do a comprehensive seismic survey this year followed by a sustained drilling programme.

The field is located in the Kirthar concession of which Lasmo has 47.5 per cent with Shell owning an equivalent stake but the Pakistani Government can acquire up to 20 per cent of the field.

Lasmo has an equivalent interest in the adjacent Kirthar West concession and this year acquired Bela North and South, two concessions nearby. The country suffers an energy shortage and gas from the Bhit field could be linked to Pakistan's main gas pipeline 65 kilometres away, or be linked to an electricity generation project.


ANDRE CAMARA

Simon Keeble, finance director, and Nicky Foulston reported a jump in pre-tax profit

Brands Hatch in 'pop' talks

BY FRASER NELSON

BRANDS HATCH, the motor racing circuit owner that is transforming its courses into multipurpose theme parks, is poised to stage the first pop concert in its 70-year history.

Nicola Foulston, chief executive, is in talks with Jamiroquai, the acid jazz band, with a view to staging a concert at the 120,000-capacity Brands Hatch course. If it goes ahead, the event is expected to bring in about £300,000 in profit and will mark the course as one of the country's largest pop venues.

Miss Foulston, who at 29 is the youngest chief executive of any listed company, said if the event was to go ahead, it would have to be worth considerably more than the £100,000 typically received by Wembley Stadium. Miss Foulston met Jay Kay, Jamiroquai's lead singer, when he used the course for a photo shoot.

The foray into pop concerts is part of the company's ongoing commerialisation programme, including the construction of conference centres and corporate entertainment.

The company returned pre-tax profits of £2.12 million (£1.14 million) for 1996, in line with its prospectus forecast. Earnings were 19.1p a share, and a maiden dividend of 0.5p is payable on July 9.

Unions' bank prepares to offer low-cost pension plans

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

UNITY TRUST BANK, the financial services group controlled by trade unions, is planning to set up low-cost second-tier pension schemes and may compete in retail banking services after emerging from a tough period of consolidation after the recession.

Sir Dennis Landau, chairman, said that both Labour and Conservative plans for pensions were inadequate. "Neither party is brave enough to call for compulsory secondary pensions," he said. Merely converting a 5 per cent rebate of contributions from the state earnings-related pension scheme would not be enough, he argued.

Unity made a record profit of £1.28 million in 1996, up from £541,000 in 1995. Its trade union and Co-operative shareholders will share a £109,000 dividend, the first since 1986, shortly after the bank was set up.

Most of the improvement came from cutting start-up losses on joint ventures with Colonial, the Australian insurance group that is, ironically, about to shed mutual status. These include Jacques Martin Unity, which is developing industry-wide pension schemes for those not in company plans.

Unity has cut its customer loan book from £45 million in 1994 to £35 million, as it restricted new loans to creditworthy existing customers. New bad debt provisions fell to £500,000. Gordon Beesley, managing director, confirmed that none of the trade unions that made temporary borrowings had defaulted.

Unity has put on 1,000 new customers among charities and other social economy bodies. It now hopes to back new inner-city regeneration projects and more housing association developments. Any move into retail financial services will be designed to minimise overheads, probably concentrating on telephone banking and shared cash machines.

Sir Dennis, formerly chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, also dismissed the possibility of a hostile bid from Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust for the Co-op. "The whole thing is a nonsense," he said. There was therefore no reason for Lanica shares to stay suspended on the Stock Exchange, he added.

Dewhirst confident of progress

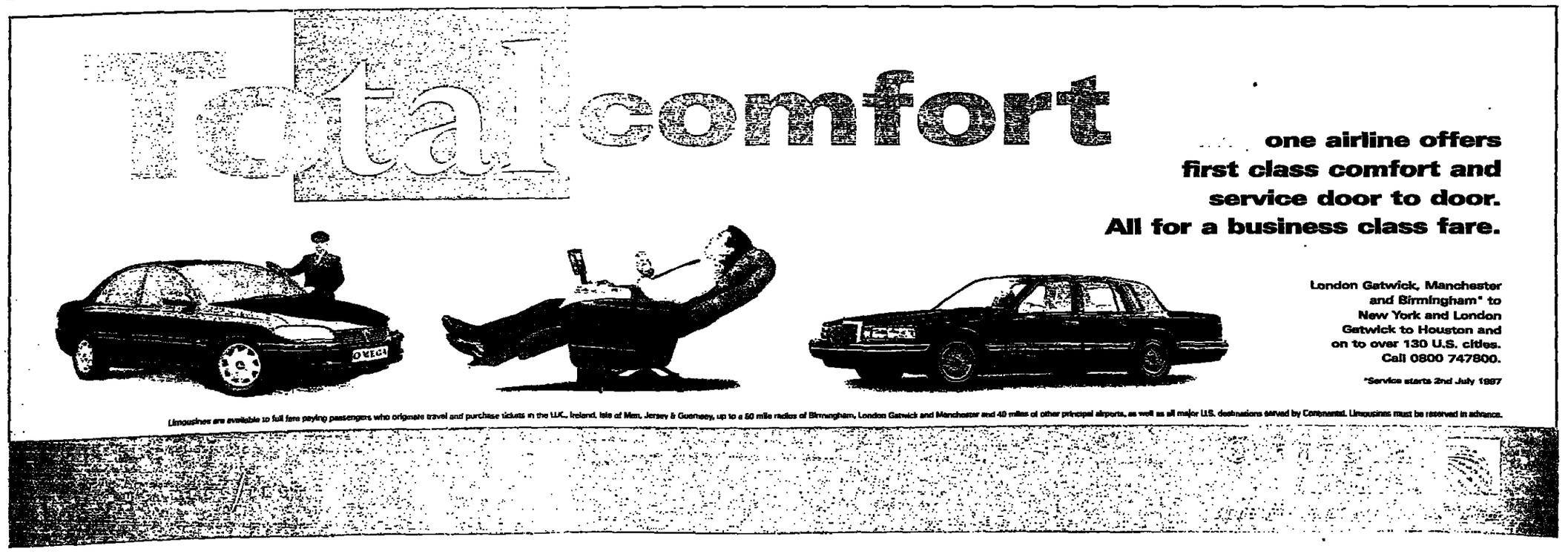
BY GEORGE SIVELL

DEWHIRST GROUP, the clothing manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits from £22.3 million to £26.4 million in the year to January 17 on sales up from £278 million to £316 million.

Earnings rose from 11.61p to 13.61p, allowing total dividends for the year to increase from 3.60p to 4.35p. The group's cash pile rises by £3.7 million to £26 million although capital expenditure is expected to rise from last year's £13.8 million. The shares rose 5p to 176½p.

Profits from clothing rose from £19.6 million to £23.6 million on sales up from £250 million to £288 million. Profits from toiletries rose from £2.24 million to £2.29 million on sales down from £29.2 million to £27.9 million.

Dewhirst says: "The group has had an excellent start to the year. We look forward confidently to continuing the group's progress."



STOCK MARKET  CLARE STEWART

Sterling's strength dents shares of British Steel



Tom Smail, left, and Jim Perrie, of Vymura, 1p higher

THE strong pound continued to cast a shadow yesterday, with **British Steel** the latest to have the shine wiped off shares as analysts downgraded expectations.

Its recent run was checked as analysts at Merrill Lynch and HSBC James Capel revised their figures to take account of currency fluctuations. Capel has moved from buy to hold, chopping 1997-98 forecasts from £320 million to £200 million. Shares in British Steel fell 7p to 152½p as nearly two million changed hands.

Dealers reported a switch of focus from international companies exposed to currency changes towards domestic stocks. Overall, however, the markets lacked strong momentum, with shares at their best putting on eight points, while mid-afternoon jitters as Wall Street opened lower knocked the index back 12 points. At the close the FT-SE 100 was off 2.4 points at 4,269.3, on volumes of 700 million.

The strength of the US dollar lifted some companies. **ICI** added 6p to 720½p, **Reed International** fell back from earlier gains to end at £11.27½, up 3½p, while BAT was 5½p higher at 522½p.

P&O was 11½p higher at 629p after settlement of its dispute over port charges in Florida, while **Hanson** progressed, up 9½p to 290p.

Tesco, confirming its top slot in the supermarket sector with a 10 per cent rise in profits to £750 million, had some of its thunder stolen by **Asda**. Tesco rose 11½p to 364p, although the figures were in line with expectations, while Asda rose 4½p to 112p, with institutional buying on volume of more than 27 million.

J Sainsbury was left out of the party, dipping 5p to 328p after talk of a chunk of shares being placed at 326p, while **Safeway**, the current sector favourite, rose 4½p to 369p.

Fashion retailers were brighter, led by **Oasis** reporting a 42 per cent rise in profits. Its shares rose 12p to 398½p as analysts upgraded forcasts for the current year to around £19 million. Next followed, adding 4½p to 622p, and **French Connection** hit a new high, climbing 21½p to 342½p.

Moss Bros added 7½p to £14.05 on further consideration of Monday's strong results, while **Laura Ashley** was in demand again and picked itself up to add 13p to 144½p. Among other retailers **DFS**, the furniture group, sagged 19p to 521½p, reflecting, say dealers, an uninspiring sector. **Dixons** fell 10p to 537½p after selling a 40 per cent stake in The Link, its chain of retail phone shops, to Cellnet.

RJB Mining was in demand again after reporting a 9 per cent rise in profits to £189.2 million, ahead of City expectations. Shares in the group rose 7p to 397½p.

Oils were helped by the firming price of Brent crude and news of new finds buoying exploration groups. **Lasmo** topped the FT-SE 100 ranking with a near 5 per cent rise, adding 11p to 234p after announcing a new discovery in Pakistan, while **Enterprise Oil** edged higher on reports of a new find in the North Sea, but ended 2½p lower at 617½p. **Sibir Energy**, a new issue, climbed to a 5½p premium on its 10p offer price on its first day of trading on AIM.

Vymura, the wallpaper group, pasted up an 82 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.3 million. Tom Smail, chief executive, and Jim Perrie, finance director, reported encouraging signs of recovery in the UK market, helping shares to add a penny to 181½p.

Better than expected profits from **Tarmac** and a cautiously optimistic view on prospects saw an 11p rise to 115p, up 11 per cent on the day. **RMC**, reporting year-end results tomorrow, saw its shares dip 11½p to 974½p.

Banks generally enjoyed a strong run, helped by recent recommendations. **Barclays** added 11½p to £10.64½, while **Royal Bank of Scotland**, which provides financial services for Tesco, was up 6½p to 543½p.

Biotech shares eased on profit-taking. **Tepnel Life** fell 23p to 102½p and **Drew Scientific** 13½p to 134p.

Commercial Union fell back 6½p to 646½p after taking a 5% per cent stake in Marlborough Underwriting. **Oriel Group**, the insurance broker, with year-end results due this month, attracted renewed interest, adding 11½p to 112½p.

The launch of the film *Fever Pitch* is proving good news for **Cassell**, the publisher, sending Nick Hornby's book back into the bestseller lists. Cassell shares jumped 6½p to 91½p, despite 1996 profits dipping to £712,000.

IBC, the busines information and conference group, jumped 15½p to 336½p, a new high, after reporting a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14 million.

Shares in **Frederick Cooper** jumped 6p to 33½p. Pre-tax profits were hit by exceptional charges, but the group is making progress with planned disposals.

United Overseas, another debutante went to a 12p premium on its first day before closing up 10p at 60p. Murray VCT, another new entrant, edged up 2½p to end at 102½p.

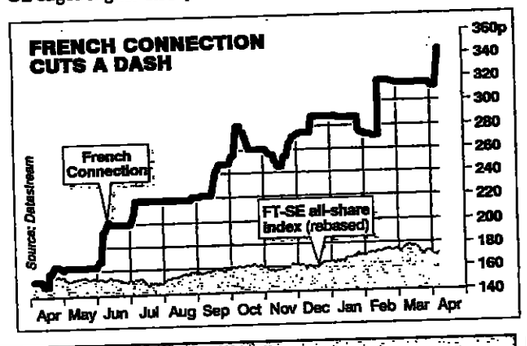
Yorklyde, the textiles group, saw its shares fall 12p to 146½p after pre-tax profits more than halved to £1.8 million, while a profits warnings from **Coral Products**, maker of moulded plastic goods, fell back 16p to 42½p.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** There were few fireworks to spark interest in the gilts market yesterday, with dealers reporting a slow day. UK manufacturing figures today and the Chancellor's monthly monetary meeting tomorrow may provide more fuel for thought. The June series of the long gilt edged up £²³⁄₃₂ to £109²³⁄₃₂ on volume of 55,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was left unchanged at £102¹³⁄₃₂, while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was down £¹⁄₃₂ at £102⁹⁄₃₂.

□ **NEW YORK:** Strength in IBM helped to lift shares, despite a weak bond market, but at midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 14.35 points at 6,541.56.

Bid talk in the property sector helped MEPC edge 6½p higher, to 466p, while Rowlinson Securities, a rather smaller fish in the market, leapt 65p to 267½p after disclosing a bid approach. Elsewhere, AIM-quoted Wedderburn returned after suspension and its recent takeover deal to advance 6p, to 30p.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6541.56 (-14.35)
S&P Composite 759.84 (-2.29)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18021.70 (+306.03)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12398.57 (+110.73)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 727.01 (+0.02)

Sydney:
AO 2368.9 (+2.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3329.76 (+16.88)

Singapore:
Straits 2104.71 (+16.57)

Brussels:
General 11826.94 (+1.07)

Paris:
CAC-40 2579.00 (+6.69)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 942.70 (-10.00)

London:

FT 30	2842.4 (+3.6)
FTSE 100	4269.3 (-2.4)
FTSE 250	4518.7 (+0.3)
FTSE 350	2105.5 (-0.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2147.42 (+11.08)
FTSE All-Share	2077.19 (-0.69)
FTSE Non Financials	2136.76 (-2.96)
FTSE Fixed Interest	116.62 (+0.32)
FTSE Govt Secs	93.60 (-0.05)
Bargains	43374
SEAQ Volume	790.0m
US$	1.6236 (-0.0061)
German Mark	2.7778 (-0.0101)
Exchange Index	99.1 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4188
£:SDR	1.1844
RPI 155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100	
RPIX 154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Avalon Oil	92½	- 6
Avis Europe	128½	+ ½
Bickerton	41½	...
Cambridge Antibdy	562½	- 12½
Charlton Athletic	60½	...
Close Bros Prot VCT	95	...
Diagonal	300	+ 1½
Donatantonio	72	...
Harvey Nash	192½	+ 9
Heal's	212½	+ 3
Helphire Group	116½	- 1
Murray VCT 2 (100)	102½	...
Newcastle Utd	138½	- ½
Oxford Tech Venture	95	...
Pathfinder Properties	38	- 7
Prestbury Leisure	2½	...
Q Group	116½	...
Sibir Energy	15½	...
Torch Hldgs	107½	...
United Overseas Grp	60	...
Whitehead Mann	144½	...
World Telecom	181½	+ ½
Worldsec	177	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Biocure n/p (9)	19	- 1½
Cliveden n/p (75)	7½	+ 2½
Edge Prop n/p (135)	15½	...
JKX Oil & Gas n/p (34)	5	- 2
Partco n/p (300)	9½	...
Saville Gordon n/p (55)	¾	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Rowlinson Secs	267½p (+65p)
Sentry Farms	152½p (+17½p)
Tarmac	115p (+11p)
Ashley (Laura)	144½p (+13p)
Kingsbury Gp	175p (+13p)
Tesco	364p (+11½p)

FALLS:

Cortecs	243½p (-11½p)
Vickers	226p (-10½p)
DFS Furniture	521½p (-19p)
Innovative Tech	310p (-10p)
Rank Group	436p (-13p)
Prism Rail	335p (-10p)
Eurotherm	468½p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

A blank sheet of paper

JEFFERSON SMURFIT badly needs to do a deal, and it could happen this year. This is not because of any financial pressure — the balance sheet is sound — nor any short-term pressure to boost earnings. In fact, the market is expecting earnings from the Irish packaging group to fall; the industry is in a dreadful recession and the price of recycled containerboard has dropped between 30 to 40 per cent over the space of a year.

The problem is, in part, self-imposed. Smurfit has set itself up as the champion of industry restructuring, correctly identifying that new capacity was crippling returns in a market, such as the US, where demand is strong. Instead of building mills, Smurfit wants to buy and finds itself at the nadir of the paper market with a big balance sheet and gearing of only 34 per cent. There lies the rub; Smurfit is generating more than £100 million of free cashflow after capital, tax and capital investment. Without a significant investment opportunity, Smurfit will find itself under pressure to deliver more than a 5 per cent dividend increase. Product price erosion makes the problem worse as margins have been shredded and Smurfit is unlikely to be generating returns ahead of the rising cost of its increasingly debt-free capital base.

Smurfit insists it will do a deal; an obvious candidate is its US associate, Jefferson Smurfit Corporation. Buying out the minority would be sensible in a recession, but Morgan Stanley, which owns a third of JSC, is asking too high a price. There are other deals and, in the end, Smurfit will wield its chequebook, but investors should wait for signs of life in the paper market before wielding theirs.

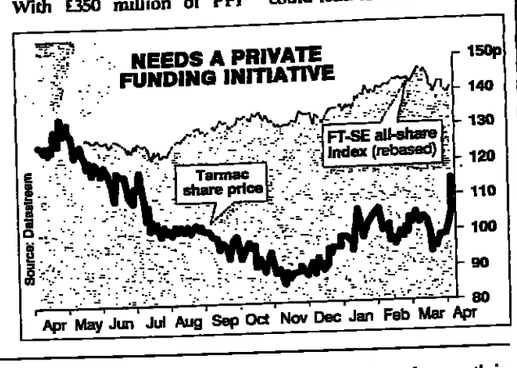
Tarmac

AN UNEDUCATED reader of Tarmac's report on the past year — replete with references to major progress and substantial achievements — might be surprised to learn that the construction group made a mere £10.5 million before tax last year.

Swapping its housebuilding business for George Wimpey's quarrying and construction activities was a step in the right direction, if poorly timed, but Tarmac has a long way to go to recover lost ground.

Tarmac's markets are getting better. The fall in UK demand for aggregates has been arrested and prices are improving. There is more construction work about and contracting margins are improving from abysmal levels. Loss-making projects taken on during the recession are coming to an end. Tarmac's figures will also be flattered by £42 million of provisions against loss-making contracts acquired from Wimpey.

However, Tarmac's fortunes remain tied to Britain's road-building programme (or lack of one) and Private Finance Initiative work. With £350 million of PFI contracts under its belt and preferred bidder status on another £450 million of work, Tarmac badly needs to see the paper workload turn into reality, sooner rather than later. The worry is that Tarmac's balance sheet is too weak to take full advantage of such opportunities and any share price strength could lead to a cash call.



CU

THE purchase by CU of a Lloyd's syndicate gives the insurer an unfortunate resemblance to a minor European bank rushing about the City buying stock-jobbing firms on the eve of Big Bang.

The canny investors have done their deals — LIMIT and New London Capital snapped up syndicates three years ago, leaving the likes of CU rummaging through the leftovers on the bottom shelf.

CU, therefore, was not spoilt for choice when it chose to buy Marlborough Underwriting Agency Ltd. But the Marlborough partners have picked a good time to sell.

Lloyd's has enjoyed good underwriting years in 1994, 1995 and, to a lesser extent, in 1996. But increasing pressure on rates means 1997 may not be as fruitful and its rates may not begin to recover until 1999.

Nevertheless, the price paid for Marlborough — nearly £3 million — is a mere pinprick when compared with CU's net worth of £4 billion at the end of last year. The deal gives CU the opportunity to build up Marlborough's presence in Lloyd's and secure an insider's view of the London market.

In return, Marlborough gets a parent that can supply a steady stream of capital every year and is keen to attract new underwriters.

Marlborough's eight partners, who will share in the £2.9 million, have pulled off a good deal. If CU exercises its option to buy the remaining 49 per cent in five years, there will be more rich pickings for other underwriters who join up in the interim.

Highland Distilleries

DRINKS companies have struggled during the past few years against static sales in mature Western markets, while emerging markets are not yet big enough to take up the slack. The only growth in the drinks sector has come from a fashion for white spirits, while Scotch, the Eighties staple, has found itself out of favour.

Highland, one of the smaller players in the market, has found it especially tough going because it is almost totally reliant on whisky. Its Famous Grouse brand has performed relatively well — in a declining market — but Highland has struggled to push through price increases. The jury is still out on whether the company overspent with its £180 million purchase of Macallan, but Highland desperately needed a new brand to help to restore it to growth.

Markets are slowly improving for whisky and the first above-inflation price rises for several years might just stick. But there is little to get excited about and Highland shares look unlikely to move far in the near future.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	974-972	Jul	1037-1035
Jul	988-987	Sep	1040 BID
Sep	1002-998	Dec	1057 BID
Dec	1004-1002	Mar	1070 BID
Mar	1014 BID		
May	1025-1022	Volume: 12046	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1575-1572	Jan	1575-1565
Jul	1583-1581	Mar	1560-1545
Sep	1598-1591	May	1550-1530
Nov	1595-1589	Volume: 1928	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	303.4-01.4
Spot: 311.5		Mar	303.4-01.4
May	310.9-10.5	May	302.7-01.0
Aug	304.3-07.7	Aug	unq
Oct	304.4-03.5	Volume: 3295	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	85.07	145.47	99.37
(+/-)	+0.65	-1.92	+2.19
Eng/Wales:	85.24	146.81	99.07
(+/-)	+0.33	-2.72	+2.42
(%)	+183.0	+51.0	+187.0
Scotland:	80.44	138.98	102.63
(+/-)	+3.39	-1.69	+2.45
(%)	+52.0	-2.0	+47.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.00	-0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	17.90	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.10	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.30	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	19.35	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	196 (n/t)	198 (n/t)
Gasoil EEC	166 (+2)	168 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	83 (n/t)	84 (n/t)
Naphtha	181 (n/t)	188 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	162.75-63.00	Jul	166.75-67.00
May	164.00 BID	Aug	168.50-69.00
Jun	165.00-65.25	Vol: 19237	

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	17.92-17.94	Aug	18.37-18.39
Jun	18.13-18.15	Sep	18.41 BID
Jul	18.34-18.36	Vol: 24254	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

May	97.90
Jul	100.75
Sep	97.50
Nov	99.50
Jan	101.00
Volume: 830	

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

May	92.50
Sep	94.25
Nov	96.25
Jan	98.25
Mar	100.25
Volume: 28	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	38.9	42.0
Jun	unq	64.0
Nov	—	72.0
Volume: 83		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf pr/k)

May 76.00-76.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 97	1485	1475	1485
May 97	1495	1480	1496
Jun 97	1360	1360	1365
Jul 97	1260	1250	1260
Vol: 99 lots		Open Interest: 2873	
		Index 1450-9	

(Official) (Volume prev day)

Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	.....
Lead ($/tonne)	.....
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	...
Tin ($/tonne)	.....
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	...
Nickel ($/tonne)	.....

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

	Cash:	3mth:	Radcliff Wolff
	2326.0-2327.0	2288.0-2289.0	Vol: 1671925
	651.50-652.00	653.00-654.00	332400
	1228.0-1229.0	1252.0-1253.0	954025
	5695.0-5700.0	5730.0-5735.0	29375
	1546.0-1547.0	1578.0-1579.0	2570750
	7200.0-7210.0	7309.0-7310.0	131730

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series	Apr Calls	Jul Calls	Oct Calls	Apr Puts	Jul Puts	Oct Puts
Allid Dom (*444)	420	25	32	42	0½	12½
ASDA (*112)	110	3½	8	30	1	4
Boots (*489)	700	3½	21½	31	17½	38
Br Airways (*641½)	650	6	24½	38	13	34½
BP (*683)	650	34½	54	64	0½	16
Br Steel (*152½)	700	5½	27	39	0	39½
C & W (*493½)	140	13	16	17	0	5½
CU (*693½)	650	45	73	85	1½	21
EMI (*643½)	650	90	115	125	15½	42
ICI (*720½)	700	24	47½	58	2	15½
Land Sec (*773½)	750	25½	40½	48½	1½	20
M & S (*489)	460	30	39½	48	0	10½
Nat West (*702½)	700	11	42	54½	7½	30½
Safeway plc (*369)	360	12	22½	30	1½	16½
Sainsbury (*328)	300	28½	32½	37½	0	6
Shell (*1040½)	1050	5½	31	50	38	52½
Smkl Bch (*891½)	850	44	69½	91½	0½	22½
Storehse (unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar (unq)	80	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca (*1760½)	1700	72	134	173½	5	42

Series	Apr Calls	Jul Calls	Oct Calls	Apr Puts	Jul Puts	Oct Puts
BAT Ind (*522)	500	24	50	57	2½	19½
Vodafone (*284)	550	1½	26	35	29	45
	280	8	22	29½	3	15
	300	1	13	20	16½	26

Series	May Calls	Aug Calls	Nov Calls	May Puts	Aug Puts	Nov Puts
Grnd Met (*483)	460	29½	40½	48	4	12
Ladbroke (*222)	220	8½	16½	20½	5½	10
Utd Biscs (*229)	240	2	8	11½	10	21½
	240	4	12	15½	14	18½

April 8, 1997 Tot: 46803 Calls: 17420 Put: 23074 FTSE Call: 1501 Put 5489
*Underlying security price.

Series	Apr Calls	Jul Calls	Oct Calls	Apr Puts	Jul Puts	Oct Puts
BAA (*501)	500	7½	23½	31½	5	20½
Thames W (*865)	650	19	44½	50	4	30½
	700	1	22	28	35½	67

Series	May Calls	Aug Calls	Nov Calls	May Puts	Aug Puts	Nov Puts
BTR (*257½)	240	17	25	29	3	7½
Br Aero (*1356)	1350	47½	87	111½	33	52½
Br Telcm (*431)	420	21	30½	33½	7	21½
Cadbury (*528½)	500	36	50½	56½	5	13
Guinness (*495½)	500	9	23½	31½	22½	36
GEC (*377)	360	23½	31½	36	3½	13
Hanson (*289½)	280	17	26½	31	0½	11½
LASMO (*234)	220	20½	28	32½	5	9
LucasVarity (*208)	200	11	18	22	5½	9
Pilkington (*120)	220	3	9	13½	17½	20½
Prudential (*558)	550	24	41	52	13½	22½
Redland (*253)	240	9	20	24½	10	16½
R-Royce (*242)	260	2½	12	16½	23½	28½
Tesco (*364)	360	9½	21½	28	13	18½
Williams (unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—
	360	—	—	—	—	—

Series	May Calls	Aug Calls	Nov Calls	May Puts	Aug Puts	Nov Puts
Abby Nat (*769½)	750	24	55½	71	4½	25½
Amstrad (unq)	800	2½	36	46½	32½	51½
Barclays (*1082½)	100	—	—	—	—	—
Brit Pwr (*501)	1100	3	41½	60	39	61½
	500	8½	31	32½	7	33½
	550	0	13½	14½	49	68½

Series	May Calls	Aug Calls	Nov Calls	May Puts	Aug Puts	Nov Puts
Glaxo W (*1080½)	1050	36	75½	91	4½	27
HSBC (*1483½)	1100	14	48½	64	24½	49½
Reuter (*936½)	1450	42½	105	134½	7	49½
Royal & Sun (*442)	430	14	—	22	18½	29½
	460	1½	18	27½	18½	29½

Series	May Calls	Aug Calls	Nov Calls	May Puts	Aug Puts	Nov Puts
Blue Circ (*438)	380	25	38	44	5½	11½
	430	8½	21½	28	19	25½

Series	May Calls	Aug Calls	Nov Calls	May Puts	Aug Puts	Nov Puts
Kingfishr (*672½)	690	35	54	65	9	20
	700	9½	28	39	35	44

Series	Jun Calls	Jun Puts
Br Gas (*237½)	220	—
	240	9½

Series	Jun Calls	Sep Calls	Dec Calls	Jun Puts	Sep Puts	Dec Puts
Dixons (*539½)	500	52½	62	71½	7½	18½
EMI Group (*1159)	1150	58	82	96½	38	61
Tarmac (*114)	1200	30	59½	73½	65½	89
	100	14½	16½	17½	2	4
	110	7	10½	12	5	8
Hillsdown (*194½)	180	16	17	—	1	6
Lonrho (*136)	200	3½	6½	—	16	17½
Sears (unq)	130	10½	14½	17	4½	7
Thorn EMI (*274)	90	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins (*522½)	1500	—	—	—	—	—
Lloyds TSB (*901)	360	21½	32	39½	5	11
	500	25½	37½	48½	18	27½
	550	7½	17	27½	50½	57½
Scot Pwr (*398)	360	21½	29½	32	10	18
Unilever (*1516½)	360	8	14	18	25½	36
	1500	59	95	112½	30	42½
	1600	17½	47	67	88½	98

FTSE INDEX (*4267)

4150 4200 4250 4300 4350 4400

Calls						
Apr	126½	85	49½	24½	9½	3½
May	168½	131	100	72	50½	33
Jun	204½	169½	138	109	86	65
Jul	233	197½	165	137½	110	87
Dec	—	295	—	234	—	182½
Puts						
Apr	11	19½	36	63	99½	145
May	46	59½	78	100½	129½	163½
Jun	72½	89½	107	129	156½	185½
Jul	85½	101	120½	143½	169	197
Dec	—	161	—	201	—	250

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	109-02	109-08	108-25	109-03	56119
Previous open interest: 172383	Sep 97	108-22	109-02	108-22	108-30	1980
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	100.45	100.48	100.07	100.22	210213
Previous open interest: 265394	Sep 97	99.26	99.30	99.12	99.23	1149
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	127.55	127.55	126.50	127.04	81125
Previous open interest: 111467	Sep 97	127.05	127.05	127.05	127.04	115
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	127.00	127.07	126.91	126.93	1622
	Sep 97	125.67	125.67	125.65	125.65	4
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.29	93.35	93.28	93.33	24178
	Sep 97	92.98	93.05	92.95	93.04	24168
Previous open interest: 452426	Dec 97	92.76	92.81	92.71	92.80	20590
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.76	96.77	96.74	96.74	18186
Previous open interest: 1256255	Sep 97	96.70	96.71	96.67	96.68	22141
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	93.17	93.17	92.97	93.03	30166
Previous open interest: 263222	Sep 97	93.50	93.50	93.32	93.39	18385
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97				99.28	0
	Dec 97	99.13	99.13	99.13	99.12	30
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.15	98.15	98.05	98.07	8045
Previous open interest: 91511	Sep 97	98.11	98.11	98.02	98.03	5633
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.86	95.86	95.82	95.86	1124
Previous open interest: 30219	Sep 97	95.78	95.80	95.76	95.80	261
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4298.0	4302.0	4275.0	4282.0	8849
Previous open interest: 64286	Sep 97	4318.0	4318.0	4318.0	4307.0	200

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 5½. Week fixed: 6½-6
Treasury Bills (Dis)Buy: 2 mth 6½-6 : 3 mth 6¼ . Sell: 2 mth 5½ : 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6¼-6⅛	6⅜-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅜-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅜-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅜-6¼	6⅜-6⅛	7⅛-6⅞
Interbank:	6⅜-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅜-6¼	6⅜-6¼	7⅛-6⅞

Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6 .

Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6¼	6¼
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅜-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	7-6⅞
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.71	5.86	6.28
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6¼	6⅜-6¼	6⅜-6¼	6⅜-6⅛	7⅛-7

EUROCURRENCY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2¾	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2¾
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2¾
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1⅜	1⅝-1⅜	1⅝-1⅜	1⅝-1⅜	2⅛-1¾
Yen:	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $348.50-348.80 Close: $348.20-348.70 High: $349.45-349.95
Low: $346.55-347.05 AM: $349.10 PM: $349.10

Krugerrand: $347.50-350.50 (£214.00-216.00)

Platinum: $365.50 (£225.20) Silver: $4.81 (£2.955) Palladium: $154.00 (£94.90)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 8

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1223-3.1297	3.1223-3.1248	¼-⅜pr	2½-2¾pr
Brussels	57.288-57.450	57.288-57.385	17-12pr	47-40pr
Copenhagen	10.581-10.607	10.581-10.600	¼-⅜pr	¼-⅝pr
Dublin	1.0661-1.0807	1.0468-1.0483	7-3pr	22-16pr
Frankfurt	2.7760-2.7820	2.7760-2.7790	¼-⅜pr	2½-2¾pr
Lisbon	278.60-279.26	278.60-278.92	¼-⅜ds	¼-⅜ds
Madrid	234.54-234.76	234.54-234.76	15-14pr	35-37pr
Milan	2739.3-2751.1	2739.3-2742.9	16-32ds	38-60ds
Montreal	2.2485-2.2540	2.2513-2.2553	0.57-0.52pr	1.11-1.03pr
New York	1.6224-1.6248	1.6229-1.6238	0.08-0.06pr	0.253-0.222pr
Oslo	11.263-11.330	11.262-11.276	¼-⅜pr	¼-⅜pr
Paris	9.3430-9.3515	9.3430-9.3515	2½-2¾pr	7½-6½pr
Stockholm	12.427-12.471	12.427-12.446	1¼-1pr	3-2¾pr
Tokyo	204.16-205.25	204.73-204.94	1¼-1pr	3-2¾pr
Vienna	19.532-19.589	19.537-19.561	¼-⅜pr	¼-⅜pr
Zurich	2.3855-2.3965	2.3855-2.3883	¼-⅜pr	2½-2¾pr

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.
Source: Extel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2807-1.2815
Austria	12.04-12.05
Belgium (Com)	35.31-35.32
Canada	1.3880-1.3885
Denmark	6.5217-6.5237
France	5.7535-5.7585
Germany	1.7109-1.7114
Hong Kong	7.7490-7.7500
Ireland	1.551-1.5525
Italy	1688.90-1690.40
Japan	126.20-126.30
Malaysia	2.5048-2.5058
Nether

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Champagne thanks

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE siblings Don and Roy Richardson made a surprise visit to the Millennium & Copthorne Hotels agm yesterday, arriving laden with gifts. Just as the show at the Britannia Hotel was coming to a close, the 66-year-old identical twin brothers, the powers behind the Birmingham property scene, made their presence known. Handing a bottle of Dom Perignon to each of the directors, they announced how happy they were with their shareholding.

Ashdown's man

BOOTS Healthcare International's loss will be the Lib Dem's gain. For the next month, Ian Wright is dropping out of sight as BHI's head of public relations, only to reappear on the Lib Dem election campaign as Paddy Ashdown's spokesman. Wright is no stranger to politics — in a former incarnation he was vice-president of the SDP.

Election keys

TIMPSON is picking up the pace in line with the general election. The shoe repair chain is measuring voters' intentions across the country, inviting customers to pick a plastic key cap in the colour of their favourite party. Labour is leading with 35.4 per cent, only 4.7 per cent ahead of the Conservatives. Customers at the Knutsford branch (Neil Hamilton's local) have caps in only blue or white, for the saintly Martin Bell, to choose from.



George Walker has been seen in Moscow

SPOTTED in Moscow last week — no doubt helping to bring the joys of capitalism to Russia — was George Walker of Brent Walker fame. Staying at the same hotel was Achille Occhetto, former head of the Italian Communist Party.

Staple, QC

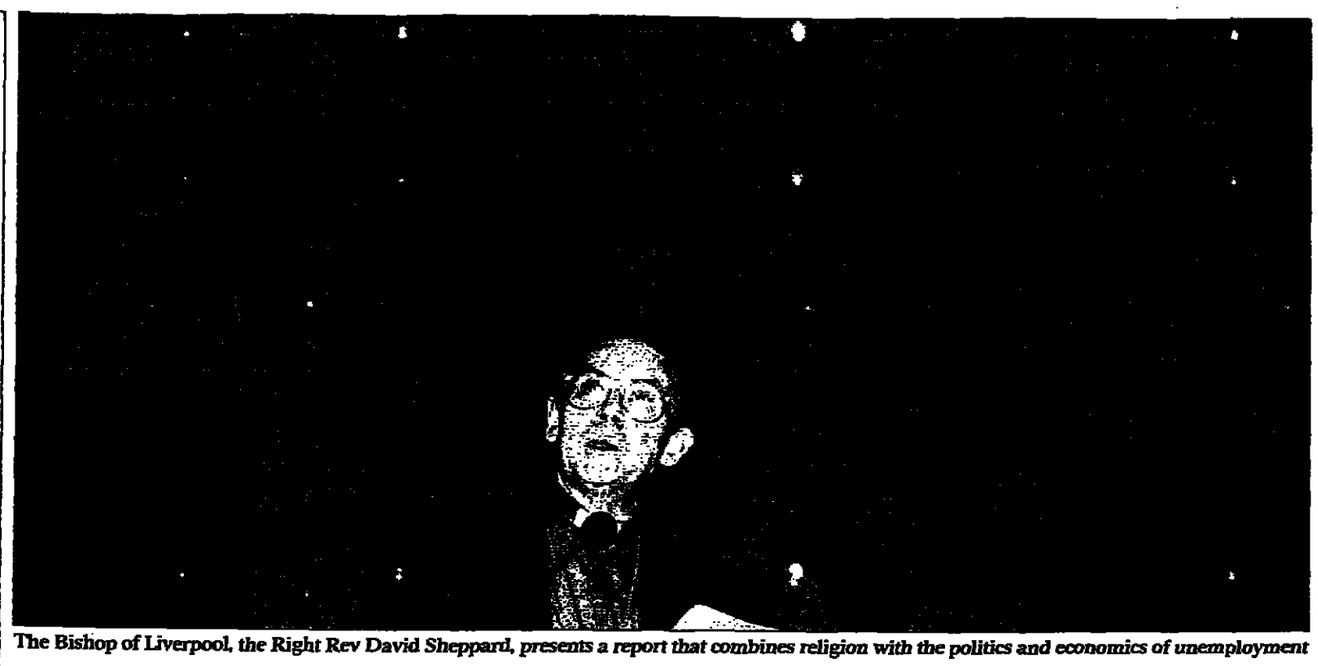
CONGRATULATIONS to George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, and now a QC, after taking silk in a traditional ceremony in the House of Lords yesterday. It is still a rare honour for a solicitor and is proof that his soon-to-expire five-year tenure at the SFO has been regarded by the authorities, at least, as a success.

WORD reaches me that Peter Seabrook, head of UK equity fund managers at Robert Fleming, has resigned his post by "mutual agreement". Seabrook, who joined the private merchant bank in 1985, has been replaced by insider John Rosier.

Long sentence

A WARNING for those who believe that issuing judges' transcripts will help more accurate reporting. Speaking during a trial at Southwark Crown Court yesterday His Honour Judge Butler confessed his surprise at one particular transcript. He noted in jolly fashion: "I can't believe I said some of the things I'm supposed to have said. There appears to be one sentence of 12 pages — that's not my style." I should hope not!

MORAG PRESTON



The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, presents a report that combines religion with the politics and economics of unemployment

Wise Man gives credence to jobs report by churches

Philip Bassett looks at the implications of a controversial offering in politics and economics as the general election nears

If the economy and politics are a volatile mixture, as the general election campaign is showing, then the economy and religion is probably an even more unstable blend. When all three come together, as they did in yesterday's report from the churches on unemployment, the combination is potentially explosive.

Launched in the midst of a general election campaign, politicians were bound as they did yesterday to crawl all over the study on work and unemployment* from the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. But what about its economics? As an analysis and a set of prescriptions for dealing with unemployment and work, do the proposals of the 11 leading denominations in a key area of economic policy stand up?

"This is based on well-grounded economics," said the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, chairman of the churches' inquiry's sponsoring panel. Independent economists are likely to give it considerable credence — not least because its principal author is Andrew Britton, former director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, and one of the Treasury's original wise men team of respected outside economic advisers to the Chancellor, and formerly a Treasury official himself.

Are the churches' recommendations on jobs economically sound, or workable? This is not the same question as whether they are what any particular political or economic faction thinks is the right thing to do; but it is likely that most independent economic commentators with an interest in unemployment and the future of work are likely to find that the churches' study is on a sound economic basis, that it has done its numbers and its work properly.

That does not mean that some of the churches' key recommendations are not highly contentious. Take its most controversial proposal yesterday — tax. "In the British election campaign," the churches say, "the political parties are competing for votes by promising low taxation. When so many are living in poverty and unemployment, it is wrong to give priority to the claims of those who are already well off."

What is needed, the churches say, to tackle unemployment properly is not a new job scheme, or schemes, though they examine many of those, but instead what political and business leaders will now not speak of: a "sustained and large-scale expansion of employment, supported by public spending, in many sectors of the economy" — for which the "main source of finance must be additional taxation".

Britain, they say, has a "relatively low" ratio of taxation to GDP. In 1994, general government receipts in Britain were 36.4 per cent of GDP, compared with 46.5 per cent in Germany and 48.9 per cent in France, though only 31.5 per cent in the US. The churches insisted that it would be possible to add "several percentage points" of GDP to taxation over a run of years, allowing a gradual expansion of labour-intensive public expenditure, without causing "serious harm" to the economy or treating any taxpayers with "flagrant" injustice.

Those responsible for proposing policy in a new government after the election were groaning yesterday that the churches' report gets disturbingly unspecific at this point, referring vaguely to taxes on materials, fuels or the higher income tax rates.

The churches claim that not only is taxation a moral issue, as the bishop said yesterday, but the idea of higher taxes has considerable public support: "Taxpayers actually want better services than they have been receiving over the past 20 years and the drives for economy in the public sector have been conducted in such a way that they are actually preventing taxpayers from getting what they want."

So runs much opinion poll evidence. The authoritative British Social Attitudes study, for instance, has regularly charted large-scale support for higher taxes. Yet as the BSA's own analysis by David Lipsey, a former associate editor of *The Times*, has shown, such consistent evidence has come at precisely the same time as the Conservatives have won four elections in a row in which they argued for state spending to be curbed and taxes cut. In the privacy of the polling booths, what they say and what they do become different things. As a political party, Labour has taken a long time to learn that lesson — and despite the churches' support for Labour policies like a minimum wage, Labour politicians moved yesterday to distance themselves sharply from the churches' tax-and-spend proposals.

Employment analysts are likely to be sceptical about the practical applicability, then, by any political party wishing and likely to gain office, of one of the churches' central recommendations to tackle unemployment. They may or may not think it is right, but they are likely to judge it unfeasible. The churches insisted they had rejected many of the classic Keynesian positions on unemployment, refusing in particular to take the traditional Keynesian line of an expansion of demand to create jobs as posing too many threats to inflation. As Mr Britton claimed of the report: "The economics on which it is based is 1990s economics, and not 1960s economics."

Its economics, he said, were "very orthodox and familiar. We look for solutions within the market system, saying that the system can be made to produce much better results. At present it is producing too much poverty and social exclusion. It does not have to be like that." Unemployment could be much lower. Jobs could pay a decent wage and produce something of "real value" to communities. There could be "enough good work for everybody".

Economists, business leaders and politicians will argue about the churches' proposals — is a minimum wage right? Should the Conservatives' Job Seekers' Allowance be scrapped? Has the sapping of trade union strength gone too far for the protection of people at work? Is unemployment really at more than four million, as opposed to less than two million? But though they may disagree with the economics of the churches' report, they will not be able to deny that its economic spine is there.

Even so, for hard-headed business, the language of the churches' report may be unusual, and the churches recognise this. "The Bible," they say, "does not speak of public sector borrowing or job creation, of a benefit system, of the respective merits of direct and indirect taxation, of world markets and industrial competitiveness", yet they say that in reaching their highly economic and political conclusions, they have been drawn back to the Bible to make recommendations that they say are "just and feasible", and as at home in the language and argument of industrial competitiveness as they are about rights and wrongs, and good and evil.

Yesterday's intervention by the churches importantly reinserts the moral dimension in the argument in a way that may be both uncomfortable and controversial for political and business leaders, but in a way in which unemployed people themselves are likely to feel is both overdue and welcome.

* *Unemployment and the Future of Work: an Enquiry for the Churches. CCBI, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL. £8.50.*



ANTHONY HARRIS

A respectable way to delay EMU's launch

A simple story: last week Chancellor Kohl declared he would run again; and Theo Waigl, the Finance Minister, said Germany can be flexible about the criteria for EMU entry. On Monday the mark fell 2.6 cents against the dollar, and faster against gold. The market, in short, still believes that as long as Helmut is there, EMU will start on time: and the market hates the idea. So does British industry, as it finds itself carried helplessly into the stratosphere on the other end of the market seesaw: there are now signs of a pro-EMU industrial movement: if you can't help beating them, join them.

Euro-devaluation rules; OK? Well, perhaps. This is hardly what Kohl had in mind, still less the Bundesbank. Officials are industriously leaking their disapproval of Eurostat, the Brussels committee which has approved French and Italian fudge; and despite high-level denials, they continue to urge a two-year delay. The Italians have officially asked for one year, and although they were shouted down, the rumours will not die. Politically, of course, a delay could be humiliating for the main sponsors; but that may not be conclusive. Stephan-Gotz Richter, a Washington financial analyst with excellent German contacts, says that they have a technical alibi up their sleeves.

The market's misgivings have not yet put much of a price on failure or delay, which would appear in the exchange markets: but that could happen soon. Can Germany itself qualify? Not even the official German forecasters yet believe that it can; but to avert a possible currency meltdown, he Chancellor will have to do better than that at the European Inter-Governmental Conference in Amsterdam in June. Meanwhile, it is the bond markets that will have to take any post-EMU strain, as Charles Goodhart (ex-Bank of England) has argued recently. They are starting to retreat a little nervously from the convergence plays that were so profitable last year.

Indeed, David Hale, of Zurich Insurance, surmises that if EMU is launched with a wide membership, it will not be long before the bonds of some of the weaker players are prices for possible secession, like Quebec bonds in Canada. EMU may be intended as a fluctuation-free zone, but it cannot be insulated against economics and finance.

So what could cause a respectable delay? The 2000 problem, that's what. This may or may not be a bug in your personal computer; but it is a major problem for the big mainframes which run the world's financial system. These were programmed when computer memory was slow and expensive; the adoption of a two-digit code for the date achieved worthwhile economies. But all sorts of sub-programmes are hinged on the date.

One or two absurdities have already emerged: for example, the trustees of an investor over 100-years-old had their application for a new issue rejected by the computer, on the grounds that she was two young to hold shares in her own name; it could not recognise the date 1895. Centenarians are rare, but a 2000 glitch would affect everyone. A further problem: most mainframes were programmed in Cobol, now out of date; so Cobol-literate programmers are a bottleneck. There is market evidence of this: even in London, which is not even trying to get ready for EMU, a lively futures market in programming services has already surfaced.

Across the Channel, Richter reports, some senior bank executives have said they may be unable to find enough programmers to tackle 2000 and 1999 at the same time. But they have to make 2000 their top priority, for that threatens the functioning of the bank, not just the reputation of the Chancellor. But there, too, is his salvation: "We remain committed, of course, to our EMU project, but due to technical problems beyond our control . . ." Rücksprung durch Technik, as he might say, or Verzögerung durch Technik — a technical hitch. A forecast? Not quite; but surely too poetic not to be true.

Clare Stewart on the successful rebirth of a British brand

New Lec comes in from the cold

Lec is Dead. Long live Lec. So runs the punchy new marketing slogan from the British fridge and freezer manufacturer as it relaunches itself in the world market.

At first glance Lec's rebirth looks like a story of traditional British pluck in the face of fierce foreign opposition, a home-grown business that has pulled through to take on the might of Electrolux of Sweden and Whirlpool of the USA. Lec, Britain's oldest fridge maker, based in Bognor, the Sussex seaside town, is back with a vengeance after its near demise in the early 1990s.

In 1987-88 Lec was on a roll. Sales peaked at £56 million, generating pre-tax profits of £4.5 million. Four years later it had plunged to a loss of nearly £3 million and employee numbers halved to around 1,000.

Today Lec remains proudly Bognor-based and British-managed but is, in fact, wholly owned by Sime Darby, the Malaysian conglomerate. Since acquiring the business in 1994, it has invested £60 million in Lec. "We are still a British company but with a Malaysian fairy godfather," says Ian Truin, marketing manager. Sales have recovered to their 1987 peak, having risen 60 per cent in the past two years and, says Mr Truin, the company expects to make a trading profit in the 1998 financial year.

Lec currently claims second place in the UK fridge market with a 15 per cent market share behind Hotpoint with 18 per cent. Lec's relaunch has included a new logo and corporate identity but more importantly a comprehensive redesign of its product range.

ANDREW HASSON



A redesigned fridge comes off the production line at Lec Refrigeration's factory in Bognor

"Fridges traditionally have been bland white boxes. We saw the opportunity to make something that looks good and is ergonomically designed," says Mr Truin.

The new-look fridges boast integral handles running the length of the doors to allow for easier opening, internal curved corners to cut down on dirt traps and external curves to give a less angular shape. Energy efficiency and recyclable components are also part of the package.

Lec's British designers may have produced "a completely new kind of fridge" but arguably more fundamental changes at Lec owe more to Far Eastern management ideas. A year ago Lec introduced the Japanese Kaizen continuous improvement style of management which encourages much greater input from the workforce. "For one hour a week we stop the factory and everyone gets together to work on projects," says Mr Truin.

"We have had a very mixed reaction from staff," says Mr Truin. A mixed reaction is probably something of an understatement, given Lec's paternalistic culture prior to Sime Darby's takeover. The company was set up by Charles Purley, a Sussex fishmonger, in 1940 and remained a family-run business until the late 1980s. "It was a very typical British company, with a rather autocratic style of management," recalls Mr Truin, who joined in 1994 just before Sime Darby's arrival.

However the company was left in virtual limbo after Charles Purley's death and the ensuing three-year court case to settle his estate. "The recession coincided with the decline of the company," says Mr Truin. "Lec had been a rather dormant business and not invested in design and development." It also had to contend with a rush of cheap imports into the market.

"By 1994 manufacturer Candy had taken a 16 per cent stake in Lec. However, while Lec's management were exploring options for attracting further new investment, a meeting with Sime Darby led to a £21.6 million bid for the business.

Lec is one of the smaller fish in the Sime Darby pond. The group was set up in 1910 by two British plantation owners in Malaysia and its empire from Bognor Regis to Papua New Guinea now includes 300 companies in 21 countries.

Despite the rapid increase in sales and improved production, it might appear that Lec's progress is limited when up against the likes of Candy/Hoover, Electrolux, which owns Zanussi, Hotpoint, and Merloni with the Ariston and Indesit brand.

But since 1993 and the worst of the recession the market in the UK has seen steady growth. Mintel, the research group, says there was volume growth overall of 23 per cent between 1991-95 with fridge-freezers the fastest growing sector, increasing by 27 per cent over the same period.

Further steady growth is forecast. Overall the market is estimated to top £700 million this year rising to £830 million by 2000. Lec, says Ian Truin, has its sights set on brand leadership in the UK and hopes to build up its export market which at present accounts for just 10 per cent of sales.

The design appeal of the new style range is also key to building sales. "It is rather like a car that you feel good about because it works well," he says. "If we could make that little leap with fridges so that they are not just anonymous boxes in the kitchen, we would be very happy."

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With effect from 1 April 1997, British citizens may visit Hong Kong visa-free for up to six months. But, if they want to take up employment, establish or join in a business, study or settle in Hong Kong, they will have to obtain an appropriate visa before arrival.

Visa applications may be made by post directly to the British Citizens Unit, Immigration Department, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong by the applicants themselves or through their sponsors in Hong Kong.

British citizens who have taken up residence in Hong Kong prior to 1 April 1997 but who have not yet acquired the "Resident British citizen" status (those who have been ordinarily resident in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years and have the right to land in Hong Kong) may continue to work or live in Hong Kong until their current limit of stay expires.

For information,
please call (852)2824 4055 or fax to (852)2598 8388 or through E-mail at roa@immd.gcn.gov.hk.

Other changes affecting British citizens with regard to the right to land and the special deportation and removal arrangements will be implemented at a later date when the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 1997 is enacted.

US phone company hopes to secure Europe

BY ERIC REGULY

ONE of America's largest phone companies is bidding to guard Europe's homes. Ameritech, of Chicago, is preparing to spend up to $500 million on buying security monitoring companies in France, Germany and Britain.

Several targets are on the short list and the first acquisition is to be made before the end of the year.

Ameritech, one of the regional "Baby Bell" companies, said its goal "is to build a pan-European" security business within a couple of years. It considered entering the market with a takeover bid for Securicor, but decided the company was too big and had too many divisions, such as security guards, which it did not want.

Dennis LaComb, Ameritech's director of international affairs, said that the company's efforts to enter the security monitoring market in Europe marked a change of strategy. Since the early 1990s it has spent about $4 billion buying stakes in newly privatised telecom companies such as Matav, the Hungarian phone company, Belgacom of Belgium and Telecom Corp of New Zealand.

The slowing pace of privatisations has forced Ameritech to look elsewhere for international growth.

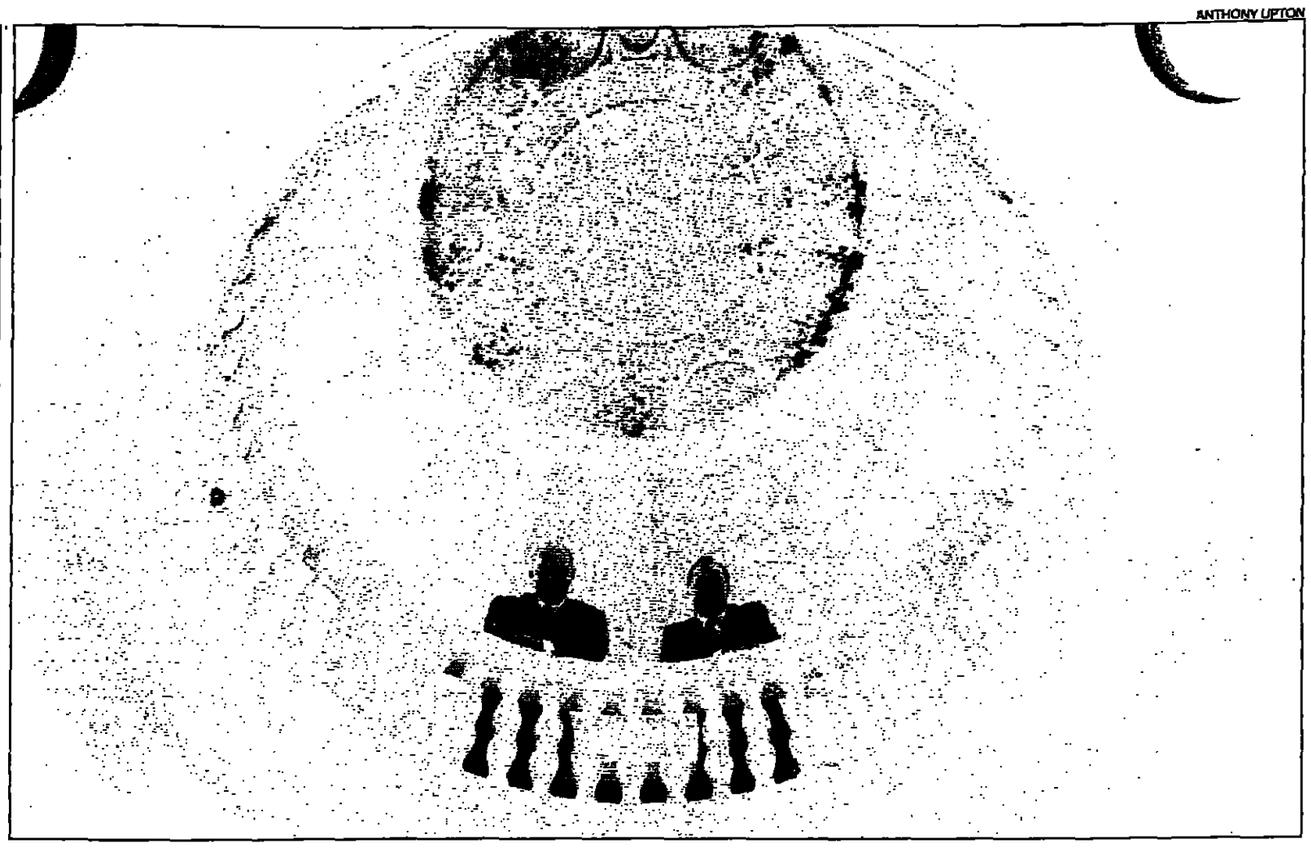
Security monitoring involves the installation in homes and businesses of burglar and fire alarms, closed circuit cameras and electronic card systems. Ameritech was initially attracted to the market because most of these systems require phone links to police and fire stations.

In America, Ameritech's SecurityLink business is the second largest player in the $15 billion market. In Canada, SecurityLink is the market leader.

Mr LaComb said Ameritech wants to get established in France and Germany before looking at Britain. The markets in continental Europe, he said, were less competitive and could be penetrated more easily.

Separately, Mr LaComb played down speculation that Ameritech wants to form a transatlantic partnership or alliance with Cable and Wireless. The rumours surfaced last year when Richard Brown, an Ameritech executive, became C&W chief executive.

ANTHONY UPTON



HORACE CLARKSON, the shipbroker, returned to the black last year with a recovery to profits before tax of £2.4 million in 1996 from losses of £6 million in the previous year. The shares responded with a 2½p rise to 103½p. Earnings per share reached 10.80p, against the previous losses of 26.80p, enabling the total dividend for the year to rise from 3p to 4p a share, with a final 2.5p.

Hugh McCoy, managing director, left, pictured in the Baltic Exchange Building with Rob Ward, finance director, said: "The outlook for the shipping market remains encouraging, but we continue to be concerned over the fall in new building prices and the constant threat of overtonnaging. Our expansion into freight futures broking and container broking and an anticipated increased contribution from our overseas offices should help to generate future growth in profits."

Jefferson Smurfit sees delay before paper prices harden

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE long-awaited upturn in paper prices may not now happen until the last quarter of this year, according to Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish paper and packaging group, which yesterday reported a 52 per cent drop in annual pre-tax profit.

The well-signalled difficulties in the industry of overcapacity and low prices cut profits to Ir£201 million in 1996 from Ir£420 million a year earlier. Earnings per share plummeted to Ir12.6p (Ir28p).

Ray Curran, chief financial officer, said a new consensus about the need for more discipline in the industry, particularly in the US, may reduce the volatility of prices in the longer term. "I think the message is getting through that investment in extra capacity is counterproductive. The industry's ability to return shareholder value will be driven by further consolidation and greater discipline. Clearly the market will not accept for long an industry which, as a recent survey has shown, did not earn its cost of capital in seven of the last ten years."

Although the slump in prices affected all areas, a strong contribution from its non-cyclical Irish business contributed to sales of Ir£464 million in the Ireland and UK region (Ir£628 million). Profits fell to Ir£34 million (Ir£48 million).

In continental Europe, profits fell Ir£82 million to Ir£113 million on sales of Ir£1.485 billion in spite of a strong performance from the solid board business in The Netherlands. The South American region accounted for Ir£47 million, or 18 per cent of overall profits, on reduced sales of Ir£360 million. Overcapacity was worst in the US. "As the year progressed the supply-demand balance that had favoured the producer shifted rapidly as new capacity came on stream. Waste was no longer in short supply and product prices fell," Mr Curran said.

Although lower prices affected all sectors, the container division was hardest hit with the average price for linerboard falling to $375 a tonne during the year from more than $500 a tonne in 1995.

In spite of the downturn, net borrowing was cut by Ir£100 million to Ir£482 million and at the end of 1996 the debt/equity ratio stood at 34 per cent. According to Mr Curran, a strong balance sheet could allow further acquisitions this year. "We have always used the cycle to our advantage and sought to acquire when the industry was in poor shape and we continue to look at opportunities wherever they arise," he said.

The company declared a final dividend of Ir2.7p, due on June 30, giving a total of Ir4.2p, up 5 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

Letter may save pensions appeal costs

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Pensions Ombudsman has thrown a potential lifeline to two pensioners facing financial ruin in a legal battle with National Grid.

David Laws and Reg Mayes, former employees of National Grid, could lose their homes and life savings if separate appeals by the company and the trustees of its pension fund go against them.

In February Julian Farrand, the Ombudsman, upheld the men's complaint that National Grid had wrongfully used £46.3 million of surpluses arising from Electricity Supply Pension Scheme in 1992 to pay for a wave of redundancies. This decision could cost electricity companies £1.5 billion and and have a bearing on Labour plans for a windfall tax.

Both National Grid and the trustees of its pension scheme have filed separate appeals against the pensioners, the Ombudsman and each other, but have refused to pay the costs of Mr Mayes and Mr Laws. National Grid said it would be illogical to pay the costs, while the trustees said the appearance of Dr Farrand made the presence of Mr Laws and Mr Mayes unnecessary. A five-day appeal could incur £200,000 in legal expenses.

This week the Pensions Ombudsman's office forced the trustees on the defensive by announcing that Dr Farrand would probably not go to court, but would write a letter to the trial judge instead. The trustees said they would take further legal advice.



Dr Farrand: non-appearance

THE TIMES & Hatchards

Gardening forum

with Tim Smit and

Penelope Hobhouse

READERS are invited to a forum with two of Britain's leading gardeners, Tim Smit and Penelope Hobhouse, on Tuesday, April 15 at 7.30pm at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7. Chaired by Stephen Anderton, *The Times* Gardener, the forum marks the publication of Hobhouse's book, *Garden Designs* (Frances Lincoln, £25) and Smit's *The Lost Gardens of Heligan* (Victor Gollancz, £20). Questions will be invited.

Hobhouse, a designer, plantswoman and colourist, will reveal how she has created a range of successful gardens, from a courtyard garden in Paris to one on a windswept Scottish island. Smit, a former archaeologist, record producer and composer, will tell of his discovery and re-creation of the magnificent Victorian gardens at Heligan in Cornwall. Tickets at £10 (concessions for OAPs, students and the unemployed, with ID, £7.50) include £2 off both books, are available by phoning 0171-734 1483, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-494 1313 or 0171-287 2638, by e-mail on 187picc@hatchards.co.uk or by sending the coupon with your remittance to Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London, W1V 0LE. Tickets are also available to personal callers at Hatchards.

THE TIMES/HATCHARDS GARDEN FORUM

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Weak oil prices predicted by IEA

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

THE International Energy Agency disappointed the oil market yesterday with a prediction of weak prices in the coming months.

The West's energy watchdog said that stocks had returned to good health, production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) was surging and alternative supplies were ample.

Slack winter demand and rising output from Opec and elsewhere left stocks barely lower in the critical first three months of the year, the IEA's latest oil market report stated.

Industry stocks in the wealthy nations that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development fell a 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the first quarter, compared with 1.5 million bpd in the same period last year.

World benchmark Brent crude futures have slumped from just below $25 in early January to $17.65 last Friday, the lowest in nearly ten months. Oil from the North Sea Brent field steadied in price yesterday, trading up 20 cents at $17.96 a barrel at midday.

The IEA maintained its world demand forecast for 1997 at 73.7 million bpd, up 1.8 million on 1996, but cut its estimate of the demand for Opec oil by 100,000 barrels to 25.3 million bpd for the year. Opec continues to flout its self-imposed ceiling of a daily 25.03 million barrels, producing 27.09 million in March each day, the IEA said.

Fleet car study backs training of drivers

BY ALAN COPPS

DRIVER training and better accident management could cut company car insurance claims to a level at which big fleet operators may be able to dispense with costly comprehensive cover, according to a survey by Lease Plan.

The company, which manages fleets totalling 65,000 vehicles in Britain, says that if trends go on, it would pay some fleet operators to buy cheaper third-party insurance and to fund uninsured losses directly.

A survey of its cars in Britain showed that accidents in which damage was caused to an insured vehicle by another party formed a smaller proportion of claims in 1996 than in 1995. "In addition, the average cost of such claims has gone down from £561.87 in 1995 to £314.08," Steve Dunn, Lease Plan commercial director, said.

A risk management programme could include professional accident management services, driver training and switching to third-party cover.

Mr Dunn says driver training has a key role in such a strategy to cut fleet costs. Lease Plan promotes training and is co-sponsor of *The Times* Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year contest to find Britain's best company car driver. Teams of three from companies of any size are invited. The finals are in July at Silverstone. The top prize is a trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Prix. The entry deadline has been extended to this Friday, April 11. Details from Lease Plan on 01753 797284.

Investor sues Sumitomo executives for £1bn



Tomiichi Akiyama in June announcing Sumitomo's copper-dealing loss

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

FIVE executives of Sumitomo Corporation yesterday faced a £1 billion damages suit for failing to take steps to prevent illegal copper deals that resulted in huge losses for the trading house.

Kazuyoshi Yuoka, a Sumitomo shareholder, is seeking compensation of Y200.4 billion, claiming that unauthorised deals by Yasuo Hamanaka, the former copper trader, were made possible by Sumitomo's lax system of checks and controls.

Sumitomo has said that it lost $2.6 billion on world copper markets as a result of Hamanaka's illegal transactions, which continued undetected for more than a decade. In February, Hamanaka, for many years the most influential player in the global copper market, pleaded guilty in a Tokyo court to charges of fraud and forgery.

Mr Yuoka, head of a property management firm in Osaka, has brought the suit against Tomiichi Akiyama, Sumitomo's former chairman, and four other former executives, including Hamanaka's direct supervisor, Akio Imamura.

Mr Akiyama resigned in February to assume responsibility for the copper scandal, and was made a senior adviser to the company. He and other executives have claimed that Hamanaka was acting alone and that they knew nothing about the improper deals.

According to the lawsuit filed yesterday with Osaka District Court, Sumitomo executives were at fault in giving Hamanaka free rein without proper checks. The suit claims that the executives failed to heed alarm bells when the London Metal Exchange made a number of enquiries to Sumitomo about Hamanaka's activities from December 1991.

Tadashi Matsumura, a lawyer for the plaintiff, said that the lawsuit sought compensation for the company as a whole rather than for one individual shareholder.

"This suit is intended as a warning to Japanese companies about the dangers of loose risk management systems", Mr Matsumura said.

In a statement, Sumitomo said that it was not in a position to comment about a suit filed against individual former executives.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Compaq to create 200 jobs at Erskine

COMPAQ, the computer manufacturer, has announced plans to create more than 200 jobs in Scotland. Compaq said that the new jobs, at its Erskine plant, near Glasgow, were part of its "continuing expansion into the next millennium" with its aim of becoming the world's third-largest computer company by 2000. The Scottish operation makes computers for the European market, and yesterday's announcement, according to Compaq, is recognition of ten years of operating in Scotland. It increases the workforce to more than 2,000.

George Devlin, Compaq managing director, said: "I am proud of what Erskine has achieved in its first ten years of operation and I am confident that our people's skill, commitment and experience will make a significant contribution to Compaq's goals." The new jobs will be created in the professional, production, materials and engineering areas, the company said.

Golden Vale decline

GOLDEN VALE, the Irish food company, said it hoped for better results in 1997 after reporting a sharp drop in 1996 profits, mainly because of a downturn in the industry. Golden Vale announced a drop in pre-tax profit to Ir£6.3 million from Ir£16.5 million on turnover of Ir£561 million, down from Ir£564 million in 1995. The shares remained steady at 55½p after the announcement of an unchanged total dividend for the year of 2.26p, out of earnings down from 8.71p to 3.21p. Jim Murphy, managing director, said: "So far so good. The first few months of 1997 are looking quite good."

Coral Products setback

SHARES in Coral Products, the paper and packaging group, fell from 58½p to 43½p after the company said that it had been hit by a shortfall of orders and the strong pound. However, Coral expects to maintain its final dividend at 1.5p and its total dividend at 2.25p, and to make at least £950,000 before tax over the full year, against the £1.6 million made in the year to April 30 1996. Coral said that, since the end of February, it has experienced both a shortfall and a deferment of orders, and a lengthening of delivery schedules. It said that it believes that capital investment now under way will bring big benefits.

GBE margins higher

GBE International, the process engineering group, raised pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to £3.5 million in the year to December 31 on sales up 5 per cent to £60.2 million. GBE said the progress reflected much better margins, particularly within its core business. A 1.0p final dividend makes a 1.6p total for the year, up from last year's 1.5p. Earnings per share rose 56 per cent to 4.2p. The company, however, says it is suffering from the strong pound. The shares fell 8½p to 28½p.

Development advances

DEVELOPMENT SECURITIES, the property group, raised pre-tax profits from £2.2 million to £4.6 million in the year to December 31 on sales slightly down from £21.6 million to £21 million. Earnings per share rose from 7.1p to 14.5p and the total dividend goes up from 2.4p to 2.7p. Net assets per share rose from 241p to 246p against a share price that rose yesterday from 242½p to 243½p. The company said the development programme was gaining momentum.

Johnson Fry falls 15%

JOHNSON FRY, the financial services group, saw pre-tax profit fall 15 per cent to £2.4 million last year as it continued its conversion into a specialist fund manager. Earnings per share were 15.9p (20.7p) as the company sold its independent financial advice business. It has an £8 million cash pile having sold Pinnacle, another subsidiary, in January. Total net assets rose £10.7 million (£9.1 million). The final dividend, due on May 31, is held at 2p, giving an unchanged total of 4p.

Scotia replaces adviser

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the drug development company, has appointed Robert Fleming as its financial adviser in place of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which also used to act as joint broker. Scotia said it took the decision to move its business on Monday, though this is disputed by Kleinwort Benson, which said it resigned last week. Scotia will work with Flemings's specialist healthcare team, which been advising the company on licensing deals. Hoare Govett continue as Scotia's broker.

Dental care alliance

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS said that it had formed an oral care alliance with Jordan, with the first product of the alliance being a new Philips/Jordan 2-action plaque remover electric toothbrush. Philips said that the world oral care market has an estimated retail value of between $8 billion and $8.5 billion, with electric toothbrushes representing between 5 and 10 per cent of the market and growing rapidly.

Thomas Jourdan ahead

THOMAS JOURDAN, the furniture and furnishings group that faces a move by shareholders to oust the chairman and the non-executive directors, yesterday reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £232,000 to £861,000 on sales up from £23.3 million to £25.3 million. Earnings per share rose from 1.3p to 3.7p and the total dividend for the year rises from 1.25p to 1.5p. The shares gained ½p to 67½p.

Rowlinson shares jump

SHARES in Rowlinson Securities lept 60p to 262½p after the group said it was in discussions that are likely to result in an offer being made for the company. The identity of the suitor was not revealed in the announcement although a further announcement was promised. Rowlinson is worth about £32.7 million at yesterday's price. In the year to March 1996 Rowlinson made £3.3 million before tax on sales of £13.8 million.

Equities flat on thin turnover

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
488	407½	Allied Domecq	444	–	4½	6.6	13.4
826	547½	Bulmer (HP)	568½	–	½	4.9	17.5
75½	57	Burn Stewart	59½	+	1	2.1	17.5
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	1000			7.1	14.9
503½	429½	Grand Met	483	+	3	4.1	15.6
518½	424	Robert	498	+	3	4.1	14.1
388	334	Highland Dist	345	–	½	4.1	14.1
559	251	Scottish Distlrs	323	–	½	8.2	15.5
1898½	80p	Morrison W	100½			6.4	12.2
1578½	1462½	SA Breweries	1912½	+	3½	1.8	

BANKS

4700½	3671½	ABN-AMRO	3992½	+	18½	2.9	16.5
811	710	Abbey Nat	776½	+	10	4.2	13.6
456½	369½	Allied Irish	415½			4.2	
492½	363½	Aust New Z	466			2.0	30.7
7878½	5753½	Bank America	6433½	+	153½		
373½	291½	Bank Scotland	321½	–	½	2.8	11.8
1226	976½	Barclays	1084½	+	11½	3.7	10.8
635	517½	Bk of Ireland	600	+	1	3.5	13.6
7899½	6006½	Chasey	6993½	+	56		
1731½	1268½	Commercials	1653½	+	31½	2.6	
882½	669½	Dbt Ldr Ken Y	818½	+	6½	0.7	
3490½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3275	+	18½	2.0	
912½	759½	Dunfrs Comb	883½	+	9½	3.8	12.6
872½	690½	Fst Bank Y	853	+	11½	0.4	
1622	1272½	HSBC	1488½	+	10½	3.4	12.9
1569½	1241	HSBC HKI	1436½	+	16	3.6	12.4
505	403½	Irish Perm	587			2.8	
534	424	Lloyds TSB	502½	+	3½	3.2	16.3
819½	689½	Nat Aust Bk	798½	+	16½	3.5	10.2
844½	666	Nat Westr	783½	+	1½	5.2	10.6
622½	508	Nyt Irl Sold	593½	+	6½	4.3	12.0
900½	691	Slland Cbnkrs	845½	+	9½	2.1	15.2
£164½	£154½	Wells Fargo	£164½	–		1.9	
374½	332½	Westpac	336½	+	5½	4.1	10.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

876½	763½	Bass	815½	–	3	3.8	16.1
686	539½	Bk for the Bit	539½	–	½	4.2	14.8
395	170½	Barbwood Brw	184½	+	1	3.8	16.5
155½	137½	Dy Comec Rest	149½	+	½	2.1	
744½	612½	Compass Grp	664½	+	1½	1.6	26.3
280½	250	Eldridge P A	278½	–		2.4	17.1
685	635	Fstr Sm A	662½	–		2.4	16.1
796	638½	Greenalls Grp	639½			3.6	15.7
750	643	Greene King	696½			2.9	17.2
237½	164½	Grosvenor Rest	189½			3.2	18.7
285	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	242½	–	1	1.5	23.7
2869	2735	Hardy Hanon	2786½	–	1	4.8	12.6
2930	2700	Hilton	2732½	+	12½	2.6	14.7
78	63½	Inn Business	74½	+	½	2.7	
357	343	Mansfield	350			2.2	16.1
315½	252	Minton Thmp	279			3.4	10.4
615	563	Morland	600			2.8	15.8
447½	32½	Paramount	339½	+	1		
820½	527½	PizzaExpress	687½	+	2½	0.5	46.5
437½	337½	Rancliffe (H)	410	–	2½	1.5	38.7
378½	284	Regency Invst	310½			1.6	30.2
439½	343½	Rnkd & Mssr	368½	–	½	3.8	20.3
289	248½	Vaux Group	265½	+	½	5.0	12.5
1190	1105	Wetherspoon JD	1182½	–	½	1.0	38.4
819	736½	Whitbread	773½	+	1	3.5	15.7
706½	627½	Wolvrhmptn D	660½			3.2	14.5
493½	419½	Yates Bros	491			1.0	31.8
635	615	Young A'	635			3.0	25.3

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

30½	20½	AAF Ints	26	+	2½		
295	179	Abbey	200			3.5	30.5
302½	237½	Allen	301½	+	2	2.9	19.5
146½	90½	Amec	139	–	½	4.7	37
49½	34½	Aney	46			2.0	30.7
482	455	Andrews Sykes	500	+	2½	1.2	11.5
284½	222½	Ashtead	277½			1.4	24.8
48½	29½	Avongrdort	46½	–	½	2.7	12.1
42	30	Bailey (Ben) Con	38½			4.3	
39½	24½	Bandit	34½			4.0	21.5
54½	49½	Barcrom	51½			2.6	33.0
2825½	247	Barratt Devel	2586½	–	2	4.2	14.2
210	168	Bassnt	198	–	2	4.0	13.9
381½	299½	Bellway	326½	–	2	3.1	16.4
21½	16½	Bellwinch	20½	+	1		13.5
676½	606	Berkeley Gp	705½	–	2	1.6	17.7
165½	150	Bett Bros	152			4.6	4.6
265	230	Bett (Henry)	265			3.6	11.1
99½	87½	Brandon Hire	91½			3.8	
35½	27½	Britannia Grp	30			8.7	
70	42½	Br Bldg & Eng	64½				
159	126½	Bryant	133½	–	½	4.7	18.7
125½	99½	CRH	117½	–	½	3.9	14.6
9½	5	Camebll & Ann	5				
81½	53½	Clarke T	73½			9.7	12.4
46	46	Costain#	46				
98½	71	Countrywide	86½	–		3.4	24.2
94	80½	Crest Nicholson	85½	–		4.6	18.2
92½	67½	Cwsdeet	85½	–		6.2	
175	155	Eve Group	175			1.1	
27½	15½	Galliford	18½			6.8	20.2
927½	857½	Glestoo (NU)	927½			2.2	18.7
58½	45½	Green (Ernest)	58½	–		3.4	15.0
308½	265	Hamilton Sun	298½	–		2.7	12.6
150	123	Hawden-Stuart	146½	–	½	2.8	19.1
21½	16½	Howard Hdgs	17½			5.7	18.7
253½	135½	Jarvis	217½	–	5	0.9	
231	182½	Kier	216½	+	1	2.7	
250	188½	Kier	215½	–		3.6	12.9
341	275	Lang (J)	335½			2.5	
129½	110½	Laing (L.A% Cv Pf)	124	–	½	6.5	
13½	9	Lovell (YJ)	10½				
210½	162½	Maunders (JH)	195½			3.7	14.4
162½	125½	McAlpine (A)	152	+	1½	5.5	16.8
119½	99½	McCarthy & S	116½	+	1½	2.5	17.2
75	53½	McInerney	73			1.9	
236½	192½	Morgan Sindall	202½			2.6	15.4
306½	234½	Morrison Cons	272½	–	1	2.2	21.1
136	109½	Mowlem (JH)	118	+	½	3.2	13.4
266	214	Persimmon	230½	–	1	5.2	15.2
123	108½	Pochin	115	+	1½	2.8	11.5
142½	99½	Pritchard	136½	–		3.4	48.0
19½	12½	Rand Ind	16½	–			12.9
179½	145½	Redland	151½	–		2.8	16.5
515	267	Sheriff Hdgs	315	+	20	2.9	17.6
73	51	Sisnrgs	53			8.5	7.3
352½	322½	Spandex	330				
103	85	Swan Hill	88½	–	1	3.6	
153½	115	Tay Homes	134½			6.5	29.2
194½	153	Taylor Woodrow	165½			2.5	16.3
627½	512½	Tilbury Douglas	580	+	14	4.8	
22½	15½	Try Group	22½	+	1½		13.4
74	58½	Wimpfield	66½	+	2½	7.5	
124½	112	Wimhomes	122½			4.4	
64½	36½	Ward Hdgs	56½				
271	239½	Westbury	252½			3.1	22.1
104	74	Wiggins	10				41.1
173½	152½	Wilson (Cit)	164			3.7	18.1
545	471½	Wilson Bowdn	525½			2.7	17.7
155	125	Wimpey Gt	137	–	3	5.0	43.3

BUILDING MATERIALS

388	326½	BPB	331½	+	3	3.7	18.0
110½	95½	Baggeridge Bk	101½	–	1	3.8	24.9
42	33	Barlow	41			6.1	17.7
46	37½	Blockleys	41	+	1½		
452½	351	Blue Circle	408	+	½	4.1	17.4
91	78½	Brendon PLC	84½			7.4	
140½	119	Br Dredging	135			5.2	15.5
640½	582½	CRH	606	–	3½	1.8	
47½	47	Caledonian Rty	47½			8.2	4.9
192½	157½	Cement	169½			4.5	
274½	236½	Cardcourt	245½	–	2	4.8	12.1
134½	118	Cmadon pl	125½			7.4	
65½	50½	Chrtitson Grp	60	–	½	6.2	8.3
272½	237½	Dyrsn (JD)	237½			2.6	14.0
145	123	Ellson 'A'	125½			6.0	7.4
4	2½	Evershns	3½				
290	235	Exmn	265			4.3	18.8
139½	112½	Flare	125½	+	3		13.9
59½	45½	Fibbs & Dandy†	52½	–	½	5.1	6.9
144	125	Graham Grp	136			5.4	
365½	303½	Halstead (J)	310	–	2½	3.9	14.1
306	271½	Hanson	290	+	9½	5.2	
277	245½	Hepworth	257½	–	2½	7.4	14.3
90	72½	Howard Tenon	87			4.6	14.9
268	235½	Hyrd Wmsn	252	–	½	6.7	10.7
75½	66	Ibstock	68			3.7	
530	470	Johnson	515			3.0	
82½	65½	Lilleshall	77½			7.8	13.2
137½	119	Marley	123			5.1	13.0
162	119½	Marshalls	120			5.4	12.9
429	361½	Mirrer Inv	417½	–	2½	3.4	37.2
180½	149	Newman Tnkst	173½			6.3	
95	77½	Norcros	80½			3.7	
22½	17½	Phoenix Timber	21½	+	½	5.2	19.5
158	125	Pilkington	143	–	½	5.2	18.9
254½	232	Polypipe	243	–	½	1.8	19.9
1825	878½	RMC Gp	974½	+	11½	4.3	16.5
381½	322	Redland	337	–	7	3.4	16.6
97½	74	Redhd	81½			7.4	
114½	96½	Rutland	109			7.3	
116½	91½	Rugby Group†	109			4.1	18.4
182½	92½	Russell (AH)	101½	+	1	3.3	
346½	241½	SISK	329½	–	2	2.8	15.8
3½	2½	Sabre	2½				
42½	21½	Savage & Fisher†	23½	–		3.7	
20½	12	Spring Ram	13½				
187½	179½	Shropshire Hdgs	185½			6.1	
115½	93½	Tarmac	113½			4.7	12.3
146	101	Tilbury	133½			4.5	14.8
545	465	Tones Perkins†	468			2.7	18.1
52½	34½	Tudor†	47½	–	1½	5.3	
514	441	Wolseley	493	+	4½	2.7	16.1

CHEMICALS

173½	142½	Albright & WBI	173½	+	13	5.0	12.8
137	118½	Allied Colloids	129	+	5	5.6	10.8
130	117	Amtrn Intl	125½			3.0	18.8
109	90½	Atmosphere Gp	95½			2.8	9.0
	0½	Anglo Utd	2				
2405	2112½	BASF Dfd	2296½	+	68½	2.6	
1040	854½	BOC	941½	–	1½	3.8	16.3
358	248	BTP	298			5.3	14.1
2625½	2246½	Bayer DM50	2475	+	28½	2.4	13.9
112½	82½	Brent Chemist	103½			4.3	12.8
224½	186½	Br Vitset	213½	+	3½	4.8	12.8
192½	167½	Bronner Mnstrt	171½	–	1	6.2	9.7
511½	278½	Canning (W)	304½			1.0	19.6
227½	165½	Cay Technlogy†	195½			2.9	17.2
402½	347	Clnarsdale	382½	+	3	4.1	12.7
264	239	Crodal	260			3.1	14.5
309½	270½	Dowlais	300			3.0	14.0
320½	234½	Ems & Everard	308			5.0	11.1
73	49½	Ems Colour	68½			10.6	6.8
21½	15½	Fry Group	20½				16.1
74	58½	Hampshird	66½	+	2½	7.5	
124½	112	Hawkhouse	122½			4.4	
64½	36½	Hurd Hdgs	56½				
271	239½	Mayberry	252½			3.1	22.1
104	74	Wiggins	10				41.1
173½	152½	Wilson (Cit)	164			3.7	18.1
545	471½	Wilson Bowdn	525½			2.7	17.7
155	125	Wimpey Gt	137	–	3	5.0	43.3

DISTRIBUTORS

282½	162½	Acison Gp Spls	198½	+	20½	8.2	5.3
397	305	Adam & Harvy	315			1.3	
21½	8½	Alexanders†	9½			13.0	6.8
72½	57½	Appleyard	58½	+	1	4.8	
3	3	Asc Br Eng	3	–	2½	5.0	14.9
545	510	BSS Group	510	–	2½	5.0	
16½	15½	Bowrng Power	15½			2.5	11.1
39½	34½	Bregot A	39½			3.2	
655	610	Brammer†	628	+	2	3.2	
27	19½	Bridgend Ga	22			4.8	
115½	99½	Bd Fittings	112½			4.8	12.5
210	200	Cadbyrs	210	–	½	2.9	18.6
187½	167½	Cir Group	176	–	1	3.2	8.7
137½	115½	Cleanslate	122½			7.3	
108	73½	Charles Sdory	76			5.3	6.3
59½	51½	Dcda (DC)	53			9.5	
121	97½	Dwg Makers	107	–	½	2.8	13.9
134½	122½	Dennaos D	124			5.2	12.8
400	346½	Diploma	346½	–	1		

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465½	387½	Electrocomponents	399	–	½	2.2	24.2
228½	162½	Eurotch Elec	168½	+	4½	3.7	24.2
127	78½	Exmoores Mk	88½			7.5	9.0
263	228	Evans Halshaw	232½			4.3	
53½	42½	Fth Indstrs	42½	–	2	9.7	6.4
367½	322½	Firstbit Grp'V	365			2.1	17.8
34½	27½	Gardnert	29½			4.9	11.3
79½	57½	Glenchewton	64	+	½	2.7	12.4
118	83½	Gowringt	86			3.9	
160	82	Hamdel	95½			8.2	8.9
267½	230½	Hands (Philip)	247½			4.4	15.1
309½	234½	Headlam	315	+	2½	2.3	
156	148	Holdcrs Techt	151½			5.4	
240½	208	ISA Intl	228½	–		1.6	
365	240½	Kewill	282½	+	1	5.1	15.0
52½	45½	Jacks (Wm)	52½			4.8	16.1
265½	214½	Refi-Fit	229½	+	½	3.1	16.5
367	316½	Lw Service†	339	–	2½	6.1	10.8
122	102	Lucas Ind	108			3.7	9.8
14½	11	Mdrpre Dpt	13			6.3	11.4
8	5½	Middlmor	7½			1.3	
61½	31½	Midlcters	45			0.5	7.1
472	229	Morbost	356			3.9	12.1
166½	131½	Northcmber	144	+	½	1.2	9.6
352½	305½	PartcrsV	309½			3.2	
464½	342½	Penebgrpnt	399½			3.3	17.1
152½	132½	Dctcls Group†	135	–	1½	6.5	
1850	1605	Powerdrive	1653½	+	31½	2.6	
362½	305½	Pttrn'V	309½			3.2	
1½	1	Rosco	2½			0.4	
36	18½	Rosscon	20			9.4	6.9
4	2½	Ross Gp	3				
199½	78½	Rotarctl	99½			3.6	16.2
39	25½	SSP Intnl	39½			0.3	7.1
59	56	Saltin	57			3.5	13.0
415½	377½	Time Products	398			3.6	15.8
379½	339	UNECO	343			2.9	17.2
382½	292½	Vardy (Dwght	306			3.3	14.6
880	695½	WF Textl	818			2.7	22.4
41	31½	Wilkinsn	35	–	½	3.9	10.3
172½	147½	Wyter	150			2.2	17.5
154½	119½	Young (H)	135½			3.8	11.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

428	327½	Ashtenpnds	370	+	13	1.8	
2285	2037½	Ascot Hdgs	2089½			2.4	34.2
876	758	Bnkns Hill	805	+	2	3.0	18.2
388	293½	BTR†	354½	–	1½	4.7	14.0
1588	1288	BMTI	1525½	+	5½	6.2	11.1
168	138	Bisby (J)	168			2.9	17.2
288	253½	Bitrst	254½	–	½	4.7	14.0
1588	1288	BMTI	1525½	+	5½	6.2	11.1
1588	1288	Bisby (J)	168			2.9	17.2

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

For AIB see Govett (John)

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 853 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	722.20	768.40	+ 1.10	2.35
General Inc	598.40	636.70	+ 1.00	2.36
UK Growth Acc	900.70	532.70	+ 0.50	2.47
UK Growth Inc	334.10	344.80	+ 0.30	3.47
Higher Inc Acc	892.80	949.90	+ 0.80	3.95
Higher Inc Inc.	475.60	506.00	+ 0.40	3.95
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	214.10	226.00	+ 0.50	5.59
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.48	96.63	+ 0.35	5.56
Nth America	362.10	374.60	+ 7.10	
Europa	391.60	416.80	+ 3.00	0.31
Bnf Fxdstl	98.74	105.10	+ 0.20	2.60
Unit Fxdstls Acc	125.60	133.70	- 0.20	4.63
Ant Fxdstls Inc	92.88	98.19	- 0.10	4.63
Global Opps	103.30	109.80	+ 0.90	0.11
Balanced Acc	88.06	70.28	+ 0.19	2.32
Balanced Inc	61.12	65.03	+ 0.18	2.32
Cash Acc	37.33	39.72	+ 0.16	
Pac Basin Acc	382.20	406.70	+ 4.40	0.98

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	131.60	139.60†	+ 0.30	6.57
High Inc Equity	153.60	207.10†	- 0.50	4.59
Worldwide Bond	263.00	270.90	+ 0.10	4.31
American Growth	616.60	644.90	+ 5.10	0.36
Asian Pacific	319.10	341.30	+ 3.50	0.40
Assets & Earnings	317.10	338.10	+ 0.10	2.78
Euro Capital Acc	201.40	215.40	+ 0.60	0.73
Extra Inc	42.84	45.57†	- 0.01	8.00
General	288.00	306.40	- 0.30	3.00
Global Opps	73.54	78.23	+ 0.05	0.51
Japan	86.09	92.67	- 0.18	
Managed Inc	48.96	52.09†	- 0.03	4.92
Mastermind	173.20	185.20	+ 0.80	1.38
US Emerging Cos	178.80	191.20	+ 4.50	
Ethical	86.56	92.09	- 0.10	1.60
International	136.40	145.10	+ 1.00	0.69
Dividend & Growth	72.52	76.84	- 0.20	4.32
Global Cash & Sec	75.00	80.06	+ 0.11	2.52
Latin America	82.10	87.34	+ 1.53	0.45
Capital Reserve	148.30	148.40	+ 0.20	4.71

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

M&P UK Growth	96.67	102.80	+ 0.19	2.34
Equity Income	138.00	144.60	+ 0.10	4.17
Extra Income	263.30	280.10	+ 0.40	8.42
Smaller Cos.	209.30	119.40†	- 0.30	1.50
International	116.40	123.80	+ 0.50	1.40

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	2526.00	2627.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 388

Amer Inc & Growth	62.84	65.30†	+ 0.06	
Emerging Mkts	77.08	80.39	+ 0.10	0.04
Europe	160.90	167.20	+ 0.80	
Extra Income #	54.98	53.61†	+ 0.05	6.07
Far East Emrg Econ	125.40	131.60	+ 0.05	0.47
Fixed Interest #	36.57	37.63	+ 0.02	8.79
Fund Inv Tst #	164.20	172.30†	- 0.10	9.64
Japan	154.00	160.00	+ 0.90	
Latin American	70.91	73.77	+ 1.09	0.66
Pacific	78.94	82.87†	+ 0.54	0.32
Property Shares	80.77	84.79	+ 0.32	2.07
Us Emerging Cos	71.31	77.87	- 0.18	1.25
UK Growth	58.45	60.80†	+ 0.13	1.70
Abn World Port #	94.96	98.88	+ 0.29	2.86
Ethical	80.56	83.78	+ 0.14	2.11
Aberdeen Glt Inc. #	50.02	50.07†	+ 0.08	7.40

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 258 5868

Recdit Property #	98.36	105.70†		5.32

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annty Income	96.68	102.79†	+ 0.14	1.97
Income Builder Inc	86.19	90.63	+ 0.05	3.86

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	301.90	322.70†	- 0.20	2.88
Capital	541.10	581.80†	+ 0.50	1.06
Balanced	886.20	947.30		2.44
Accumulator	1711.00	1829.00	- 1.00	1.71
Income Trusts				
American Income	69.14	73.76†	+ 0.79	2.20
High Income	898.60	921.40†	- 1.00	4.97
Equity Income	576.10	595.00	- 0.40	3.76
High Yield	295.80	320.40	- 0.60	3.75
Gnrl Securities	34.04	35.93†	+ 0.10	6.08
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	213.10	248.70†	+ 2.80	0.05
European Growth	59.63	63.73†	+ 0.31	0.05
International	190.20	203.20†	+ 0.90	0.11
Japan	153.40	163.90	+ 0.50	
Pacific	380.20	406.40	+ 3.50	
Secs in America	611.70	653.80	+ 0.90	0.12
Wrldwide Assets Val	55.57	59.40†	+ 0.35	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	686.90	734.20	+ 0.30	1.86
Grow & Glt	53.13	56.79†	- 0.08	3.73
Smaller Cos	215.30	230.10	+ 0.50	0.69
2nd Smaller Cos	204.00	218.00†	+ 0.40	0.85
Recovery	178.20	190.40	+ 0.20	1.48
Mid Mkt & City	154.20	164.80	+ 0.20	0.19
Ocean Earnings	466.10	498.40†	+ 1.10	1.00
Technology	222.00	237.30	+ 1.10	
Uk Special Sits	620.80	663.60†		0.94

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 526 911

Cntrcst Out Perm	122.80	127.50		
Fremdlin Perst Perm	73.55	76.41		

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01171 600 0033

Capital	91.66	97.51	+ 0.36	0.77
International	68.26	72.62		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	353.20	377.10	+ 9.20	
Bond	116.90	123.00†	+ 0.40	6.65
Brit. Smlr Cos	113.20	120.60	+ 0.10	1.77
Cose & Gen #	70.09	74.55	+ 0.39	5.18
Europe	302.80	321.40	+ 3.60	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	125.00	133.20	+ 0.30	0.31
Income Gwth	356.80	421.10†	+ 7.00	4.64
Japan	205.00	218.00		
Latin American	103.60	110.40	+ 2.70	0.57
Pacific	114.20	121.50	+ 1.80	0.53
UK Smlr Cos	59.95	63.78	+ 0.30	1.33
Japan Fd	499.60	514.90	- 0.40	
Mngd Fd	209.50	222.80†	+ 2.20	2.71

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

Bnt & Usaas	390.40	412.90		0.86
Capital Gwth	139.20	147.20		2.84
Wrldde Oppo	229.30	242.60		0.88

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 522 4000

Balanced Trusts				
Bnth & Inc Inc	458.50	482.70	+ 0.50	2.08
European Bd Inc	98.00	101.40	+ 0.40	5.85
Exempt	90.08	95.63	+ 0.11	2.54
ISA	522.00	582.40†	+ 0.40	1.97
General	347.90	370.10†	+ 0.50	2.15
Property	258.10	276.90		5.44
Trustee	244.90	260.50	+ 0.20	2.19
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.10	100.10†		9.44
Distribution 65+	117.40	118.00	+ 0.20	6.01
Extra Income #	146.90	156.70†	+ 0.10	4.57
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.96	60.79†	+ 0.13	7.76
Income #	628.70	670.50	+ 0.30	4.98
Income Builder #	72.09	77.41†	+ 0.25	5.15
Int Income	74.23	78.97	+ 0.33	2.01
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	152.80	163.80	+ 0.30	2.00
FTSE 100	109.70	116.40	- 0.10	2.44
Leisure	185.30	197.80	- 0.10	1.24
Recovery	531.70	567.10	+ 0.20	2.19
Smlr Cos Inc	61.97	66.10	- 0.03	2.04
Special Sits	437.90	465.80	+ 0.80	1.85
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	187.20	198.00	+ 1.40	0.35
F East Gwth Acc	295.30	314.10	+ 5.90	0.11
Far East Gwth	175.30	186.30	+ 3.50	0.11
Euro Gwth Inc	200.40	212.40	+ 0.60	0.60
- do- Accum	218.00	230.70	+ 0.60	0.60
Japan	108.63	115.20†	+ 0.10	
- do- Accum	110.20	116.50	+ 0.10	
Japan Spec Sits	51.30	54.35	- 0.02	
Worldwide	199.30	210.50	+ 0.90	0.65

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
0117 214 7001

American Growth	142.50	148.50	+ 1.40	
Asset Smlr Cos	135.50	145.80	+ 3.00	
Convertibles	61.37	65.53†	+ 0.13	4.40
Eastern	280.20	300.00	+ 3.50	0.30
Equity Income #	106.50	117.90		0.10
European Growth	199.60	421.40	+ 1.70	0.10
Europe	402.30	426.60	+ 1.30	0.69
German Growth	93.03	98.46	- 0.01	0.50
Global Bond	70.48	74.12	+ 0.36	5.30
Global Growth	146.60	154.80	+ 0.90	0.40
Japan Growth	155.70	165.30	- 1.00	
Japan Smaller	104.90	111.20	- 1.30	
Manx Trust	49.26	53.26	+ 0.05	
Portfolio	152.50	161.70†	+ 0.50	2.00
- do- Accum	250.60	312.10	+ 1.00	2.00
Uk Growth	115.90	124.50	+ 0.40	3.00
Uk Smaller Cos	104.90	113.90		1.90
Select Managers	91.09	97.75†	+ 0.33	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3300

Intl Gwth Port Inc	92.32	98.21	+ 0.48	
Special Oppor Inc	66.51	70.54	+ 0.18	

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	156.02	164.04†	- 1.89	1.45
- do- Accum	181.51	192.07	- 2.21	1.45
Smaller Cos	171.14	182.18	- 1.71	0.40
Higher Yield #	59.53	62.99†	- 0.70	3.99
American Gth Inc	108.23	114.53	+ 2.38	
European Growth	174.57	184.69†	+ 0.24	
- do- Accum	178.30	188.58	+ 0.24	
Mngd Pnsn Inc	66.18	68.38†	- 0.25	1.27
- do- Accum	67.57	69.89	- 0.26	1.27
Int Spec Opps	178.42	188.69	+ 2.24	
Pacific Gth	149.35	158.04	+ 2.93	
Uk Growth #	104.99	111.18	+ 0.18	2.90
Uk Income #	113.93	120.56	+ 0.19	2.90
Japan	45.46	48.11	+ 0.18	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	100.60	104.46†	+ 0.54	8.17

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Ghost Dated Gilt	63.98	64.80†	+ 0.06	6.64

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5050

Emerging	197.40	207.80	+ 0.50	1.88
UK Growth	235.60	247.70	+ 0.60	2.52
Uk Income	158.00	164.20†	+ 0.30	4.29

CANADA LIFE MGMT (GB) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Gen Dist	242.50	258.10	+ 1.20	1.53
- do- Income Dist	124.60	142.60	+ 0.30	3.54
- do- Accum	448.90	466.90	+ 1.20	3.51
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.68	42.74	+ 0.10	5.35
Growth Units	274.90	292.90	+ 0.80	2.00
Bond	176.00	185.00	+ 0.50	6.80
Intl Growth	251.70	267.10	+ 2.00	0.18
North American	369.00	386.00	+ 2.70	0.09
Far East	385.10	326.30	+ 2.70	0.60
Uk Smaller Cos	247.20	264.50	- 0.20	1.08
Eastpoint	98.54	105.80	+ 0.40	0.49
Japanese Growth	35.66	38.00	+ 0.29	
High Income	232.70	248.90	+ 0.70	4.08

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7456

American & Gen	228.80	237.40†	+ 2.30	
European Inc	103.00	109.40	+ 0.30	0.37
Smaller Cos (4-1)	114.30	121.70†	+ 0.80	1.35
Growth	592.20	630.00†	+ 1.30	1.99
Income & Growth #	476.40	506.10	+ 0.60	3.50
- do- Accum #	751.00	809.60	+ 0.90	3.50
Japan & Gen	52.91	56.05†	+ 0.51	
Hallmark Gwth	212.76	213.30†	+ 1.00	1.76
- do- Accum	213.60	215.56	+ 0.90	1.76
Special Sits	135.60	145.40	+ 0.10	1.98
High Yield	216.14	218.64	+ 3.00	4.00

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	106.30	113.35	+ 0.77	2.17
American Portfolio	128.20	136.37	+ 0.30	1.05
European Portfolio	146.45	155.80†	+ 0.71	0.59
High Income	52.38	52.52	+ 0.15	7.26
Japanese Portfolio	52.48	55.61†	- 0.02	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	157.26	169.10	+ 1.87	0.70
UK Equity	102.75	109.74†	+ 0.18	3.24
UK Equity & Bd	93.64	94.27	+ 0.15	5.29
UK Smlr Cos	54.48	58.27†	+ 0.13	1.62

CDF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Inv Fd Inc	616.65	629.00		4.15
Inv Fd Acc	616.65	629.00	+11.77	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	155.60	158.22		9.15
Fxd Int Sec Acc	155.60	158.22	+ 0.14	

CDF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	789.90	831.84	- 12.78	4.32
Investment Acc	937.24	987.60	- 69.31	
Fixed Int Inc	125.44	126.94	- 0.52	9.21
Fixed Int Acc	236.62	239.58	- 0.98	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

Restraint Intl	84.51	89.10		5.62
Back Bks Tech	37.98	41.38		
Accss Emrgd Tst	183.97	193.18		0.44
City Fin Assets	81.43	85.51†		1.80
City Fin Ind	87.37	91.69		0.14
Finers Hse Cap	200.25	340.76		2.39
Buckley World Gth	139.53	148.32†		
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	57.89	60.73		3.42
Show Utilities	84.84	86.28	- 0.19	6.68

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

Emerging Markets	80.28	83.85	+ 0.46	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 333

American Gwth	73.88	84.77	+ 1.17	
Dragon Growth	70.08	74.95	+ 0.73	0.40
Equity High Inc	97.86	103.36†	+ 0.31	3.76
- do- Accum	143.20	151.53	+ 0.46	3.76
Extra Income Inc	25.57	27.57†	+ 0.08	7.22
Extra Income Acc	30.07	31.85	+ 0.11	7.22
European Gwth	67.14	71.05	+ 0.27	0.52
Evergreen	31.00	33.15	+ 0.12	
General Equity	119.84	121.41	+ 0.65	2.66
Japan Growth	36.98	39.15	+ 0.02	
Pacgrow Gwth	67.98	71.91	+ 0.19	2.16
Pref Sec Con Inc	41.32	43.73	+ 0.07	1.14
- do- Accum	44.85	48.61	+ 0.06	1.14
Retirement Inc #	29.82	31.72	+ 0.05	5.81
Special Sits	50.17	53.95	- 0.04	2.56
UK & Overseas	62.43	66.06	+ 0.47	0.69

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01684 866 000

Balanced	74.62	77.10	+ 0.07	4.01
Capital	89.51	93.03	+ 0.18	2.36
High Income	52.58	54.87	+ 0.18	6.74
Top 50	61.22	63.77	+ 0.07	2.52

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	202.45	210.92†	+ 0.76	4.35
Long Gilt	43.53	45.33†	+ 0.19	6.25
Monthly Inc Plus	54.23	56.32†	+ 0.10	5.92
Preference Share	48.32	50.34†	+ 0.12	7.74
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	150.62	156.91†	+ 0.53	5.44
Managed Fund	78.27	81.54†	+ 0.29	2.72
Uk Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	57.06	59.44†	+ 0.02	1.80
- do- Accum	68.23	71.06†	+ 0.02	1.80
UK & General	105.18	110.59†	+ 0.33	2.72
- do- Accum	140.75	146.61†	+ 0.44	2.73
UK Growth	211.77	220.62†	+ 0.67	1.27
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	226.23	235.68†	+ 0.76	0.61
Far Eastern Gnth	124.17	129.38†	+ 0.79	0.03
Global Bond	72.47	75.91†	+ 0.12	6.52
Japan Growth	91.86	95.51†	+ 0.05	
North Amer Gnth	253.30	263.88†	+ 3.45	
Oriental Growth	81.92	85.34†	+ 0.66	0.27
Worldwide Growth	73.77	76.85†	+ 0.54	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.53	91.53†	+ 0.02	5.55
Homeowner Fixed	92.93	98.67	+ 0.45	2.18
Quilter Fund	162.43	172.62	+ 0.41	2.08

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5968

Consistent Ut	37.09	39.85		3.98

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	194.80	207.20		1.79
Income	75.50	80.32	+ 0.11	4.39
European	79.48	84.56	+ 0.02	0.46
Recovery	183.70	195.40†	- 0.80	2.63

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	1062.90	1079.00		3.23

CREDIT SUSSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 680 370

Fellowship Tst	116.40	123.80†	+ 0.20	1.30
Income #	301.40	320.60	+ 0.50	4.37
- do- Accm #	804.60	855.90	+ 1.30	4.37
Smaller Cos	241.70	257.10	+ 0.30	0.53
- do- Accum	301.10	320.30	+ 0.30	0.53
Gth Portfolio	105.90	112.69	+ 0.30	1.27
High Inc Fnd #	97.21	92.77	+ 0.29	4.50

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1834

Global Sm Cos	1617.70	1651.50		
UK Small Cos	2295.40	2383.40		2.77

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8818

Disc Inc	240.80	253.50		3.14

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	183.70	195.40	+ 0.10	1.65
UK High Inc Inc	192.30	204.50	- 0.10	3.46
- do- Accm	263.60	280.40	- 0.10	3.46
UK Pref & F I Inc	58.74	60.44	+ 0.17	6.83
Overseas Opps	108.60	115.50†	+ 0.30	0.67
Balanced Funds	48.32	50.34†	+ 0.12	7.74
High Yield	150.62	156.91†	+ 0.53	5.44
Managed Fund	78.27	81.54†	+ 0.29	2.72
Uk Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	57.06	59.44†	+ 0.02	1.80
- do- Accum	68.23	71.06†	+ 0.02	1.80
UK & General	105.18	110.59†	+ 0.33	2.72
- do- Accum	140.75	146.61†	+ 0.44	2.73
UK Growth	211.77	220.62†	+ 0.67	1.27
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	226.23	235.68†	+ 0.76	0.61
Far Eastern Gnth	124.17	129.38†	+ 0.79	0.03
Global Bond	72.47	75.91†	+ 0.12	6.52
Japan Growth	91.86	95.51†	+ 0.05	
North Amer Gnth	253.30	263.88†	+ 3.45	
Oriental Growth	81.92	85.34†	+ 0.66	0.27
Worldwide Growth	73.77	76.85†	+ 0.54	

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

Bth Director Dlgs	127.02	135.85		1.03
Growth Acc	284.97	303.64		0.63
Income	619.38	659.64		6.02

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	229.00	243.60		0.70

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480

European	- 97.50	102.63	+ 0.34	1.66
Ethical Tst	46.80	49.26	+ 0.15	0.99
Far Eastern	292.99	308.41	+ 2.97	1.45
High Income	151.30	159.47	+ 0.51	4.67
Ldr Indexs Tracking	55.33	58.24	- 0.08	3.11
Ind Growth	147.14	154.88†	+ 0.06	0.57
North American	154.09	162.20	+ 0.27	1.78
Pelican	152.11	160.12†	- 0.05	3.04
Sensible Cos	78.43	82.45	+ 0.11	1.78
Special Sits	96.96	102.05	+ 0.20	2.70
Tst of Inv Trs	224.93	236.77	+ 0.55	1.36

For Evermore see Laurence Keen

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	104.09	111.63†	+ 0.05	
Fd of Inv Trs	55.06	58.73	+ 0.03	0.49
High Income #	40.53	43.44†	+ 0.01	11.51
Warrant	46.85	50.92	+ 0.17	
Zero Preference	45.46	48.23	+ 0.05	

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

Family Assd Tst	102.30	108.80	+ 0.10	2.26
United Charities	336.10	357.50†	+ 0.80	2.00

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161

Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.60
Cash Fund				
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.46	27.43	+ 0.05	5.33
Strategic Inc	37.38	28.62†	+ 0.07	5.93
Income Funds				
High Income	37.52	39.88†	+ 0.10	5.34
Income Plus	140.98	143.90†	+ 0.60	4.09
European Income	53.17	56.48	+ 0.22	2.41
UK Inc Gth	33.77	35.91†	+ 0.12	2.33
Growth Funds				
ASEAN	58.68	62.60	+ 0.29	
Americas	343.70	365.10	+ 4.90	
Amer Spec Sits	187.60	200.60	+ 4.10	
Japan Smaller Cos	23.32	23.90	+ 0.23	
European	251.70	267.70	+ 0.80	0.51
European Opps	89.49	95.17	+ 0.27	0.02
Global Priv	34.93	37.14†	+ 0.15	0.30
Uk Growth	131.60	140.00	+ 0.40	1.14
Growth & Inc	192.80	205.00	+ 0.60	2.36
Intl PEP	51.61	54.24	+ 0.29	1.01
Japan Spec Sits	82.80	88.61	+ 0.44	
Japan	152.50	161.70	+ 1.00	
Managed Int.	368.00	392.60†	+ 2.80	0.48
Moneybuilder	67.82	72.12	+ 0.39	
Recovery	66.71	70.94†	+ 0.11	1.52
South E Asia	184.30	196.60	+ 1.70	0.58
Special Sits	758.70	848.80	+ 3.30	0.53
Specialist Funds				
Cash Account Units	118.59	118.59	+ 0.01	5.60

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	151.30	153.78†		1.70
Fleximy Prf Inc #	101.00	101.99†	+ 0.20	6.09
Gen Policy	157.10	168.30	+ 1.20	0.46
General Opps	150.10	151.50		2.29
Growth Inc	39.50	39.91	+ 0.04	1.93
Private Portfolio	491.90	500.10†		1.20

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 680 386 Admin/Val 01277 680 350

Euro Smlr Cos	158.40	165.90	- 0.50	0.17
High Income	22.63	23.85†	+ 0.01	9.43
Japan Smlr Cos	13.89	14.59	- 0.09	
US Smaller Cos	431.80	454.50	+ 5.30	

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ص ٢٤: من الأعلى



■ OPERA 1

Berlioz is poorly served by English National Opera's gimmicky staging of *The Damnation of Faust*



■ OPERA 2

... but at the Royal Opera Bryn Terfel makes a superb return to Strauss's *Salome*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC

Spirit of '68: Stockhausen's once-acclaimed *Stimmung* is revived on the South Bank



■ POP

Mary Black adds a touch of the raunchy stuff to her act, and wins over the fans at the Barbican

OPERA: ENO fails to deliver the expected Berlioz riots. Plus anger from Bryn Terfel in Strauss

Long dark night in the stalls

Sometimes a production acquires a reputation for horror-shock in advance of the first night — it's all part of the build-up — and so it was with English National Opera's staging of Berlioz's "dramatic legend", conducted by Mark Elder and directed by David Alden. Fall-out after the dress rehearsal suggested a return to the heady days of ENO in the Eighties: the audience would be shaken to the very core of its being, there would be fist-fights between booers and cheerers at the end, dear little old ladies would belabour each other with weighted handbags, all to be faithfully reported in the late editions. Alas, no such luck. The only sound to be heard at curtain-fall on Monday was a barely suppressed yawn.

The Damnation of Faust
Coliseum

What is essentially a concert work, and hence not loaded down with stage directions for traditionalists to quote back, is well suited to a free-wheeling director — it's open season. But one person's series of meaningful images — in this case Roni Toren (sets) plus Brigitte Reiffenstuel (costumes) — is another person's strychnine. And there are severe problems with a directorial style based on fierce emoting, often in slow motion, if the lighting is so dim that you can't see the characters, or if the cast is not too hot at conveying what it is they are supposed to be emoting.

The images are there all right, many of them now clichés of modernist production — the motorway, the telephone kiosk and line of telegraph poles, wheelchairs, people carrying suitcases, supernumeraries of indeterminable gender, and asylum settings. At least the long-expected bare light bulb was replaced by a chandelier.

There's a nice Nigel Lowery *Ring* joke on a graffiti-filled wall, and it was fun working out whether Faust was supposed to look more like Woody Allen or Elton John. Throwing gladdies at the audience was new, in opera at least, and plump Boy Scouts in purple with toothbrush moustaches struck a duly sinister note. Faust, Marguerite and Mephistopheles donning dreadful "operatic" costumes for their trio made its point about Gounod's *Faust*, but what the whole caboodle was supposed to add up to I cannot begin to suggest.

The best thing about the evening was the actual sound. Elder has the most fastidious of ears for texture, and is thus a natural Berlioz conductor. The contained, bright string tone allowed every shade of colour to emerge without the need for "pointing", right down to the pianissimo bass drum in the Hungarian March. And he has a wonderful feel for the elusive shape of Berlioz's musical phrases. But his reading was — what is the right word? — spacious, perhaps. If you think of Berlioz in terms of reckless impulse, then try another address.

Louise Winter was in seductively plushy voice as Marguerite, and expressive viola and cor anglais support made her two big numbers the high points of the evening. Maybe Willard White wasn't entirely at ease performing Mephistopheles's Serenade as a Maurice Chevalier top hat and cane number, but he sang beautifully and adopted a nicely sardonic mien. The relentlessly high-flying title role is a killer to which Bonaventura Bottone's Italianate timbre is not wholly suited, but he went at it fearlessly. Graeme Danby made an impact as a skinhead Brander, and the augmented chorus was on lusty form. But I can't remember when I was last so grateful for a final curtain.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER



All dressed up but nowhere to go: Willard White (Mephistopheles), Bonaventura Bottone (Faust) and Louise Winter (Marguerite) make a point by donning the garb

A body of anguished evidence

WHEN the Royal Opera's *Salome* revival opened just over a week ago, it was as if Robert Hale, as John the Baptist, was not so much preparing the way of the Lord as making the way straight for Bryn Terfel. It was Terfel who created the role of Jokanaan when Luc Bondy's production was new, and he now returns to it for the last four performances.

One of the wonders in this albeit

Salome
Covent Garden

flawed production is that each singer makes each role very much his or her own. And Terfel as Jokanaan, of course, has done so supremely from the start. From the moment the crucial spot in the palace floor stirs uneasily, like the slow eruption of a molehill, and the great human arm surfaces from its underground prison, right up to the final, silent martyrdom, this Baptist's presence endures far beyond the short span of the role.

The body language expresses a tense equilibrium of torment and nobility. Only in his visionary moments does this Jokanaan's body find its true axis, its proper perpendicular: when physical, earthy matters are at issue, it is tortuously earthbound. And Terfel's voice is, characteristically, at one with the expression of his body. Anger and anguish serrate its edge; yet spiritual vision transfigures his bass-baritone into a new and supple tenderness.

The psychological growth of Salome herself is only thinly sketched in this production, yet the intensity of Catherine Malfitano's protracted battle of wills with Terfel brings a compensatory concentration of focus. The return of Terfel certainly brings new impetus to a musical momentum already confidently and thrillingly under way under the baton of Christoph von Dohnányi. Those who fail to catch the show on Friday or next Monday will be able to see it at a future date on BBC2.

HILARY FINCH

CONCERTS: Stockhausen revisited; Stravinsky at length; and a stunning stand-in soprano

Patience sore tested

Stimmung
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Radio 3's *Sounding the Century* series is providing valuable opportunities to re-encounter some of the seminal works of the contemporary era. On Sunday a group from the London Sinfonietta Voices took us back to 1968 for Stockhausen's *Stimmung* and Cornelius Cardew's *The Great Learning*. The former is the more significant work and it remains, for all its infuriating eccentricities, a major contribution to the repertory — something that cannot be said of Stockhausen's more recent offerings.

Stimmung requires the six singers, seated in a semi-circle, to vocalise on the overtones of a single fundamental — a low B flat — building up a complex web of vowel sounds (by moving tongue and lips) and of pitches derived from the primary note. The effect is of a single chord, with occasional variants, sustained (in this performance) for 85 minutes.

Each of the work's 51 sections follows a "model", set by a lead singer; the others gradually conform to the model and a new section is started. Magic names — gods and goddesses — are periodically called out and their vowels assimilated into the model.

The London Sinfonietta Voices were not afraid to introduce flashes of humour — Nicole Tibbels shrieking "come on", Terry Edwards invoking "Zeus" with exaggerated resonance — but could do little to redeem the embarrassment of Stockhausen's own love poems.

For this performance, the singers elected to embark on the sections in random order — a considerable technical feat rarely, if ever, attempted before, and executed with commendable assurance.

From Cardew's *The Great Learning* (which, complete, runs to some seven hours) we heard just "Paragraph 1". Here the "chorus" (for which the London Sinfonietta Voices were joined by special guests that included the composer Diana Burrell) do not sing. Instead they clash stones, blow whistles and chant a text taken from Confucius. None of which is as vacuous as it might sound: the subtle cross-rhythms on stones made an arresting opening, for instance, while clusters of sustained tones were modified almost imperceptibly following each whistle "solo".

If almost superhuman patience is required to respond to this slowly evolving process — and I admit that I was sorely tested — then that is a fair reflection on the oft-repeated Confucian message of self-discipline as the path to enlightenment.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Symphonies with problems

BBCPO/Tortelier
Festival Hall/Radio 3

When is a symphony not a symphony? More often than not, when it's by Stravinsky. And, as if to prove the point, the BBC Philharmonic collected almost all his non-symphonies together to demonstrate their various degrees of aberrance, as the BBC orchestras' South Bank rites of spring continued.

First came the *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*: etymologically correct, but with not a shadow of symphonic form in sight. Commentators often speak of the composer's cinematic, "splicing" technique. Here it yielded gentle, sepia sequences, thanks to Yan-Pascal Tortelier's choice of the original 1920 version.

Then the *Symphony in Three Movements* filled the stage with the BBC Philharmonic — plus a piano. Stravinsky frequently referred to the first movement as a piano concerto, and the work as a whole as a concerto for orchestra, and Tortelier certainly exploited it as such.

Back in time to the *Symphony in C*, still kicking against the great tradition. But not kicking as hard, perhaps, as it could. After the opening fast, tight crescendo, this was a somewhat cool, pursed-lip performance, with one smudged entry too many.

The concert ended with the *Symphony of Psalms*. The London Symphony Chorus were responsible for the ritualised triptych of prayer, promise and praise; but they, too, seemed below par. Perhaps, in this long evening, they had waited just too long for the Lord.

HILARY FINCH

Bonney and blithe

LPO/Eschenbach
Festival Hall

Only Stravinskians and Kathleen Battle's devoted fans would have been disappointed by the changes to Saturday's London Philharmonic programme, but the rest of the Festival Hall audience revelled in an excellent concert. Having a glowing artist such as Barbara Bonney step into the shoes of the temperamental diva (who was indisposed) actually seemed like rather a good deal, and the more focused programme consisting only of Mozart and Mahler was probably an improvement too.

The first part of the evening became a neat *Nozze di Figaro* package, with two of Susanna's arias preceded by the overture. Christoph Eschenbach, conducting the second of his LPO concerts last week, got superlatively fine playing from the orchestra: with purling winds and shining strings the overture had stylish brio. But Eschenbach gave it dramatic tension, too, that showed just what *Figaro* is about. He was a considerate accompanist to Bonney in two arias from the original version of the opera, *Venite inginocchiatevi* and *Deh vieni, non tardar*.

Bonney's beautiful voice continues to bloom, and it now has more colour than ever. The soprano used it to bring her first aria to witty life, and in *Deh vieni* floated lines that were full of amorous longing. Finally, she was bold in *Exsultate, jubilate*, capturing the contrasting moods of Mozart's motet. Phrasing was shapely, and the top notes exquisitely controlled.

Mahler's Fifth Symphony was conducted by Eschenbach with his characteristic all-out intensity, but also with the clear-headedness that is vital in this music; without a score he was still attentive to every corner of the enormous orchestra. Every idea in this fluctuating score fell into place, and transitions were smooth. The terrifyingly powerful opening sank naturally into the funeral march that follows, and the music soon swelled up again with shattering vehemence. Eschenbach balanced this on-the-edge neurosis in the first two movements with the gradual affirmation of the remaining three, though he played up the unreality of the dances in the Scherzo rather than any humour its title may imply. Even the famous Adagietto, here a sustained outpouring of quiet luminosity, was tear-laden, and it took the blazing finale to establish that the Fifth is indeed an optimistic work.

JOHN ALLISON

Gone quite contrary

AFTER seven highly successful albums in a misty, soft-focus vein, Mary Black went for something of a musical makeover with her new album, *Shine*. Out went Declan Sinnott, the Irish producer who had been with her from the start, along with the gentle Irish songwriters whose work she had always championed. In came Larry Klein, a top Los Angeles producer best known for his connection with Joni Mitchell, and a cosmopolitan collection of adult rock songs. The result is a tougher sound with a bite that has shocked some of her traditional fans.

The new, improved Black

POP

Mary Black
Barbican

with added raunch was on offer at "From The Heart", the nine-day festival which is currently turning the Barbican into a supermarket for Irish music, and consumer reaction was highly favourable. In a set of 20 songs, she sang seven numbers from *Shine* and, alongside the older material, the new songs did just that.

What Klein has skilfully coaxed out of Black is a willingness to attack a song instead of merely stroking it. She opened with the album's title track, a dramatic ballad about rising from the ashes of failed love, which displayed the elasticity of her voice, and followed with *One and Only*, an up-tempo tune which she grabs by the scruff of its neck and shakes down with an unsuspected vigour.

She stretched the voice further on Richard Thompson's *I Misunderstood*, and two David Gray songs, *Trespass Shoes* and *Almost Gone*, emphasised the breadth of the new attack. Best of all was *I Will Be There*, a classic call-and-response duet for which the writer, Paul Brady, joined Black on stage. By now the band had also been joined by festival organiser Donal Lunny. Black was bashing the hell out of a bodhran and there were no fewer than ten people on stage. The sound was mighty indeed and old Black favourites such as *Past the Point of Rescue* and *Vanities* inevitably sounded insipid by comparison.

Black's career had reached a plateau and she had the choice of finding a fresh challenge or settling comfortably into the role of all-round MOR entertainer. She has adventurously struck out for the high road and on the strength of this performance it is the best decision she has ever made.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON



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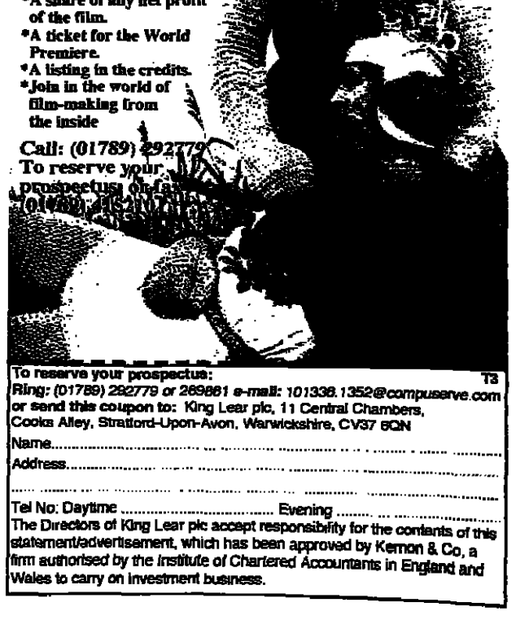
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■ CHOICE 1

Potsdam revisited: Michael Gambon plays Tom Driberg in *Tom and Clem*

VENUE: Previews begin tonight at the Aldwych



■ CHOICE 2

Max Stafford-Clark directs April de Angelis's *The Positive Hour*

VENUE: Opens tonight, West Yorkshire Playhouse

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ DANCE

At Covent Garden MacMillan's *Anastasia* is revived with mixed success by the Royal Ballet



■ JAZZ

A tribute to John Coltrane is one of the highlights of Cheltenham's jazz festival

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

ELIJAH: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Classics series includes this evening's performance of Mendelssohn's great oratorio — a core work in the English choral repertoire. The conductor is Owain Arwel Hughes. **Albert Hall,** Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

KINGS: Artists, sculptors and photographers celebrate the vibrancy of the Indian sub-continent in an exhibition in aid of the charity Kids in Need of Education, which sponsors educational projects for children in India and Nepal. **74 St James's Street,** SW1 (0171-278 9433). Today and tomorrow, 10am-9pm.

SOUTH BANK: In the Queen Elizabeth Hall (7.45pm), Kenneth Sillito directs the *Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields* in Haydn's Symphony No 88 and the first performance of Tonis Kaumann's *Nihilismus Acutus*. Keith Lewis, tenor, joins the orchestra in an exploration of Rimbaud's poetry in Britten's song cycle, *Les Illuminations*. The concert ends with a selection of suites from Schubert's *Rosamunde*. In the Purcell Room (7.30pm), **Andrew Keeping** performs a programme of guitar masterworks. **South Bank Centre,** SE1 (0171-960 4242) Ⓢ

TOM AND CLEM: Michael Gambon plays the flamboyantly indiscreet Tom Driberg and Alec McCowen the newly elected Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, in Stephen Churchett's play, set in Potsdam in the summer of 1945. Richard Wilson directs. **Aldwych,** Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6007). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens April 14, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Paavo Järvi conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Stenhammar's overture, *Excelsior!* and Berwald's Fourth Symphony. Nielsen's Flute Concerto is played by Kevin Gowland, and the evening concludes with Mendelssohn's Symphony No 4. The programme will be repeated on Saturday at 7pm. **Symphony Hall,** Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

BRISTOL: Cecilia Noble and Steve Toussaint in **The Amen Corner,** James Baldwin's gripping Hot Gospel drama, pitting salvation against jazz. Paulette Randall directs. First revival since 1987. **Old Vic,** King Street (0117-987 7877). Previews tonight, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until May 3.

LEEDS: Out of Joint and Hampstead Theatre present April de Angelis's witty and astute new play, **The Positive Hour.** Although Miranda endeavours to improve the lives of those around her, she is increasingly overwhelmed by the feeling that their fortunes are beyond her control. Max Stafford-Clark directs. **West Yorkshire Playhouse,** The Quarry, Hill Mount (0113-244 2111). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Tha Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed (Apr 16), 2pm, and Sat (Apr 19), 3pm. Until April 19. Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

Art First: David Prentice; Margaret Hunter (0171-734 0386) . . **Cafe:** New Paintings from West Cornwall: Carole McDowall, Richard Nott, Sax Impey (0171-232 2170) . . . **Curwen:** Marian Wouda: "Thrice the Life . . ." (0171-636 1459) . . . **Gallery K:** Christine Watson — Women of Rome (0171-794 4949) **Grosvenor:** Mark Shields (0171-629 0891) . . **Hayward:** Material Culture: The Object of British Art of the 1980s and 1990s (0171-928 3144) . . . **National:** London's Monets (0171-747 2885) . . . **Orleans House:** From Realism to Abstraction: Richmond Printmakers (0181-892 0221) . . **Pentagram:** Tony Evans (0171-229 3477) . . . **Whitechapel:** Antechambe (0171-522 7888)

Flat copy of the old master

DANCE: **Debra Craine** on a patchy Covent Garden revival of *Anastasia*



DEE CONWAY

Leanne Benjamin, a physically perfect — and brave — Anastasia, with Stuart Cassidy

What would the Royal Ballet do without Kenneth MacMillan? His full-length works are second only to the classics in terms of their importance in Covent Garden's programming. Already this season we've had his *Prince of the Pagodas*, next week we get his *Romeo and Juliet*, and on Monday night *Anastasia* returned to the Royal Opera House stage.

MacMillan's 1971 work possesses neither the narrative thrust of *Romeo*, nor the symbolist power of *Pagodas*. Its abrupt change of style in Act III — created in 1967 as a one-act ballet all its own — still jars. But *Anastasia* does have one thing going for it: some brilliant choreography.

The flow of inspired writing is virtually uninterrupted in Act I, which takes place on the eve of war in 1914. The imperial Russian family is having a picnic and the young Anastasia, like her three sisters, is unaware of the catastrophe brewing in Europe. They dance with a carefree, romantic indulgence, sunning themselves in the warmth of privilege. Anastasia is effervescent in her dancing, bubbling over with flighty excitement. The Tsarina is lusciously regal in hers, savouring each arabesque and luxuriant backbend.

The middle act, set in 1917 at Anastasia's coming-out ball, is acutely observant of human behaviour. This time it is the hypocrisy of the royal marriage under the microscope and MacMillan exposes it through movement that contrives to interlink the conflicting relationships of Anastasia's parents. Act III takes us to the Berlin asylum which houses Anna Anderson, the woman who believes she is the Grand Duchess Anastasia. It is a half-hour, non-stop nightmare of excoriating memories relived in choreography stricken with terror.

This is, of course, where the ballerina makes her mark. And it is through the ballerina that the two disparate halves of *Anastasia* — the Tchaikovsky and the Martinů — are reconciled. Leanne Benjamin, the first cast Anastasia, is physically perfect for the role. Her tiny frame is remarkably pliant, ideal for the elasticity of MacMillan's body language, and she has no hesitation in risking life and limb for the sake of his physically draining choreography.

But the dramatic complexities of MacMillan's psychological explorations were too often overlooked in her reading on Monday night. Act II, in particular, found Benjamin looking as if she had forgotten the plot entirely. And, although she redeemed herself somewhat in Act III, her Anderson did not quite rise to the level of harrowing.

The rest of the opening night cast was uneven. Elizabeth McGorian oozed elegance as the Tsarina, and danced beautifully. But Christopher Saunders, as Nicholas II, was almost a blank slate. So was William Tuckett's Rasputin, who circled the royal family with all the menace of a parish priest. Mara Galeazzi was fluent and animated as the Tsar's mistress, despite some horrendous partnering problems with an ineffectual Bruce Sansom.

JAZZ: The Cheltenham Festival upheld a rich tradition of solo brilliance, says **Alyn Shipton**

Bodies full of soul

The major new commission of this year's festival began with a bang. Tommy Smith's *Planet Wave* for 12-piece band started with the big bang some 20 billion years ago and swept magisterially through time in ten movements linked to poems by Edwin Morgan. The scoring was accomplished, with some dazzling effects, including a passage for four flutes delicately poised over dulcet trombones and trumpets, and some all-too-brief solo opportunities for trumpeters Guy Barker and Gerard Presencer, flautist Stan Sulzmann and saxophonists Tim Garland and Smith himself.

Smith's writing seemed strangely anachronistic, echoing the third-stream ideas of composers like William Russo, whose *Trilothons* explored the same prehistoric subject matter. Overall, *Planet Wave* lacked sufficient variety to carry it through 90 minutes, and it was further inhibited by Morgan himself, delivering his poems with little more sensitivity than if they had been the shipping forecast. Like the third-streamers before him, Smith's conception suppressed his soloists' role, denying some of Britain's liveliest voices the chance to shine in a festival that was elsewhere a joyous affirmation of the rich jazz solo tradition.

Saxophonists dominated the event, with James Moody, Jackie McLean and Chico Freeman among the highlights. Holding his own in such august company was Britain's Alan Skidmore, in an impassioned tribute to the work of John Coltrane. Supported by Steve Melling on piano and the relentless power of Stephen Keogh on drums, Skidmore whipped a drowsy lunchtime crowd into submission with a blistering examination of Coltrane's core repertoire. In the middle of the set, *Body and Soul* made the first of a number of appearances over the weekend, here reharmonised by Coltrane into a bleak, unforgiving statement.

An hour or so later, *Body and Soul* turned up again, this time adorned with Tatum-esque runs and chromatics amid the steady tap of the audience's feet as part of Monty Alexander's virtuoso solo piano recital.

When *Body and Soul* next reappeared, it became the high point of the festival. It was a major coup for Cheltenham to bring Johnny Griffin over from France to join an all-star British rhythm section for his first appearance here this decade. The surprise ingredient was drummer Steve Argüelles, also now a French resident, and appearing earlier with his own minimalist trio, the Recyclers. His eccentric solo on Griffin's *Hot Sake* was inventive even at the fastest of tempos, and there were grins all round as pianist John Taylor and bassist Dave Green threw in their own inventions in the wake of Griffin's hell-for-leather playing. Yet, as a man who grew up adoring Ben Webster, Griffin remains the supreme ballad player on tenor, his *Body and Soul* as exquisite, delicate and light as Skidmore's had been dark, brooding and stark.

As the sun set over the Georgian streets, the final set came from the Art Ensemble of Chicago, proving that yesterday's avant garde are the core of today's tradition. No drummer at the festival could match Famadou Don Moye for his robust confidence, let alone his shimmering blue suit and knee-high snakeskin boots, and Malachi Favors reminded us from behind his painted mask that he is one of the most powerful bassists in jazz.

They closed the event on a bang even greater than Smith's with a reminder that jazz is about more than composition, and that its heartbeat is the freedom of the soloist and the stimulus of collective improvisation.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
Ⓢ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

Ⓢ **HALLOWEEN NIGHT:** Rough Magic Company from Ireland brings the *Four Corners* season to a close with Lynne Parker's production of Declan Hughes's play in a holiday cottage four uneasy couples wait for their host to appear. Supernatural events ensue. **Donmar Warehouse,** Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until April 19.

□ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR:** Michael MacLiammóir's celebrated tribute to Wilde: movingly revived by Simon Callow, conveying the wit, the gravity, the distress. **Savoy,** Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until May 10.

□ **KINGS:** Homer, the first two books, as Alan Howard thrillingly tells them, in Christopher Logue's translation. A rare chance to hear the quarrel between Achilles and Agamemnon presented as the poet intended, in five performances. **Tricycle,** 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until April 19.

Ⓢ **LADY IN THE DARK:** The 1941 musical by Moss Hart, Ira Gershwin and Kurt Weill. A fashion editor (Maria Friedman) visits her psychiatrist to tell of her dreams about three men. All songs except the linking ballad, *My Ship*, occur in the dream sequences. Directed by Francesca Zambello. **National (Lyttelton),** South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm. In rep.

□ **LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN:** Braham Murray's production of Wilde down from Manchester for a ten-week season. Gabrielle Drake plays the woman with a past, Rebecca Johnson the virtuous wife without a mother. **Theatre Royal,** Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

□ **POPCORN:** Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his come-uppance when a couple of serial killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dana Davis) blame him for their misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs. **Apollo,** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm.

□ **ROMANCE, ROMANCE:** Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Hermann, derived from a Schnitzler hit of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven Dexter. Transfer from a sell-out run at the Bridewell. **Gielgud,** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

Ⓢ **SUPER-BEASTS:** Cast of four, including Moray Watson, in revue-style production of short stories and playlets by Saki. A show planned by Emlyn Williams in the 1970s but never previously performed. **Jermyn Street,** 16b Jermyn St, SW1 (0171-287 2875). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens April 14.

□ **THEN AGAIN . . . :** A new Lyric Revue, drawing on the sharper items from years gone by, plus fresh material. Neil Bartlett directs Desmond Barrit, Dawn French, Sheila Hancock and Neil Mullarkey, with John Gould at the piano. **Lyric,** King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm. Until April 19.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . Ⓢ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . . . □ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged):** Criterion (0171-369 1737) □ **Martin Guerre:** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . . Ⓢ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) □ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) □ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . . □ **The Women in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FEVER PITCH** (15): Football-crazed teacher falls in love. Appealing version of Nick Hornby's book, with Colin Firth, Ruth Gemmell. Director, David Evans. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **HARD MEN** (18): Tension among London hitmen. Meretricious British thriller in the Tarantino mould. **ABC Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

A SELF-MADE HERO (15): Jacques Audiard's captivating film about a bogus Resistance hero in the Second World War, with Matthieu Kassovitz. **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Rio** (0171-254 6677)

TOKYO FIST (18): Cyberpunk love triangle from Japanese director Shinya Tsukamoto. Not for the squeamish. **ICA Cinema** (0171-930 3647)

CURRENT

◆ **BLOOD AND WINE** (15): Seedy adventures of wine merchant Jack Nicholson. Stylish potboiler from director Bob Rafelson. **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 1030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **MARS ATTACKS!** (12): Tim Burton's silly and star-studded spoof of the alien invasion movie. **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SECRETS & LIES** (15): Mike Leigh's Cannes triumph, an uneven but absorbing tale about family life. With Brenda Blethyn and Timothy Spall. **ABC Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215)

◆ **SHINE** (12): Child prodigy pianist crumples under the strain. **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STAR WARS** (U): The movie milestone returns, with four extra minutes. With Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Alec Guinness. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

TROJAN EDDIE (15): Urban scamp Stephen Rea struggles to be his own man. Droll drama, with Richard Harris. **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

◆ **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO + JULIET** (12): Effervescent contemporary treatment, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 19 Mar-18 Apr Theodore Roussel "A triumphant Exhibbon" Times 11 Motcomb St SW1 0171 235 8144.

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COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tom 8.00 **ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE** Tomor 8.00 **THE DAMNATION OF FAUST**
To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info Tickets available on the day **The Royal Opera** Fri, Mon (Last Night) 7.30 **SALOME** **The Royal Ballet** Tom, Sat 7.30 **ANASTASIA** Tomor 7.30 (Last Night) **LA BAYADÈRE** Tue 7.30 (First Night) **ROMEO AND JULIET**

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS at the **PEACOCK THEATRE** (0171) 314 8900 Daniel Ezralow's **MANDALA** A startling vision of one man's journey Until 19 April Tues-Thurs & Sat at 8pm, Fri at 6pm & 8.15pm, Sun 13 at 6pm

THEATRES

Adelphi Legendary Entertainer **JERRY LEWIS** **DAMN YANKEES** A helluva musical with heart! Red. price prevs from 29 May Opens 4 June 0171 413 1777 (24hrs low big fee) Grps 0800 614903, 0171 930 3000 (no fee)

ALBERY THEATRE BO & cc 0171 369 1730 cc 344 4444, 312 5068 (No fees) Grps 413 3321, 312 5069, 436 5586. Previews from 14 April, Opens 17 April **GARY WILMOT ANN CRUMB** in **THE GOODBYE GIRL** A New Musical Book by Neil Simon, Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by Don Black Evgs Mon-Fri 8pm, Wed Mat 3pm, Sats 5 & 8.30pm.
To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070 cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 **BEN ELTON'S** **POPCORN** "Fast, funny and downright sexy" Evening Standard "A bloody good night out." F.T. Mon-Sat 8.00pm Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** **THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH** White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

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CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 **BEST COMEDY** Laurence Olivier Award Nominee **REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** in **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)** All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes "Hilarious" Times Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm **THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)** Tuesday at 8pm **London's Longest Running Comedy Hit**

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DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 **MISS SAIGON** **"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"** **NOW IN ITS 8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR!** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS** 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS BO/cc 0171 494 5075 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444/ 420 0000 (bkg fee) **Royal Shakespeare Company** **THE HERBAL BED** By Peter Whelan "A love story, a courtroom drama and a moral thriller. **ONE OF THE BEST NEW PLAYS THE RSC HAS PRODUCED"** S Times Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 **FROM TOMOR 13 WEEKS ONLY**

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033 **EWAN HOOPER JAMES SIMMONS** Susan Hill's **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt **"The most thrilling and chilling play for years"** D.Mail **NOW IN ITS 8TH YEAR** Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm **Running time 2hrs**

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GIELGUD 0171 494 5557/ 420 0000 Grps 494 5454/420 0200 **ROMANCE, ROMANCE** **Two New Musicals** "So good they named it twice" D.Tel Eves 8pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) Eves 8 Mats Thur 3 & Sat 5 FOR 8 WEEKS ONLY **Royal Exchange Theatre Co.** **OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY** **LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN** tomorrow, 7 30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until May 3

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LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5450/312 8000 **ROBERT LINDSAY** **BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL** **Laurence Olivier Awards** **"ROBERT LINDSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH & GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY. HE'S A HOOT"** D Exp **IN** **OLIVER!** **3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR** **'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE'** S Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 **SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS**

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806 0930 500 800/420 0000/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6076 **TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S** **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** **"Sends Shivers Racing Down The Spine"** D Telegraph Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 (no big fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm). £15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance. **Now booking to September** Some seats avail at door Mon - Thu

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252. Grps 0171 620 0741. 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 Please allow extra journey/parking time because of major roadworks **LYTTELTON** Tom't, Tomor 7.30 **LADY IN THE DARK** a musical play by Moss Hart with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by Kurt Weill **COTTESLOE** Today 2.30 & 7.30 **THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN** a new play by Martin McDonagh. Tomor 7.00 **KING LEAR** William Shakespeare.
To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 **THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL** **CATS** Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 **LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT.** Bars open at 6.45 **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.**
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OLD VIC 0171 928 7616 24hrs: 420 0000 (no bkg fee) **The Peter Hall Company** **12 Plays in Repertory** **7 days a week** **CLOUD NINE** by Caryl Churchill **"Disgracefully funny"** D.Mail Tom't & Tomor 7.30pm Sat & Sun mat 2.30pm **WASTE** by Harley Granville Barker **"Sulphorous, gripping production gets Hall's first season off to a blazing start"** S.Times Fri & Sat 7.30pm Tomor mat 2.30pm **HURLYBURLY** by David Rabe **"It is worth crawling over broken glass to see it"** Kaleidoscope Sun & Mon at 7.30pm Tickets £10 - £19

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PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 344 4444/420 0000 (24 hrs) Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5 **THE PETER HALL COMPANY** **PETER BOWLES CARMEN SILVERA HENRY McGEE** **ERIC SYKES** in Moliere's hilarious comedy **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES** **"POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS"** D.Mail

PICCADILLY THEATRE 0171 369 1734/cc 0171 344 4444 **NEIL DUNN'S COMEDY** **STEAMING** Previews from May 1

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 **WINNER BEST CHOREOGRAPHER** **BEST NEW MUSICAL** **LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS** **"REAL POWER & PASSION A BLOCKBUSTER"** D. Tel **"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL. A GREAT EVENING OUT"** S. Times **MARTIN GUERRE** **BOUBIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"** Int Her Trib Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 **NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998**

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 freephone 0800 614903 **"HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN'. ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY."** D. Mail **GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE** THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER Directed by Jerry Zaks **"AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY"** E. Std Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm **REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT** **NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998**
To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

QUEENS Bo cc 0171 494 5040 cc 344 4444 Grps 494 5454 **PATTI LuPONE** **IN** **MASTER CLASS** by TERRENCE McNALLY Prevs 18 April. Opens 6 May

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 494 5075) DUCHESS THEATRE: **THE HERBAL BED** previews 10 April 7.30 STRATFORD (01789 295623/ cc 0171 413 1462) **RSC STOPOVER** for details 01789 414999 RST: **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Tom't 7.30 SWAN. **HENRY VIII** Tom't 7.30 TOP. **THE MYSTERIES: THE PASSION** Tom't 7.30

ROYAL COURT 0171 565 5000 cc 420 0100 (24hrs) Downstairs (Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane) **EAST IS EAST** by Ayub Khan-Din, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat Mat 3.30pm. Upstairs (Ambassadors, West St) until Sat **VOICES FROM SPAIN,** a week of rehearsed readings, Eve 7.30 **SEMINAR: Voices from Spain,** Sat 3.30 12 Apr.
To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

SAVOY BO/cc 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 (no bkg fee) Grps 420 0200 **"OSCAR NOMINATED"** Ind **SIMON CALLOW** **"Is exemplary: unsentimental, lucid, lively, absorbing"** Times **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR** **The Wit, Triumph & Tragedy of Oscar Wilde** by Micheal mac Liammoir **"scrupulous, intelligent, compassionate & funny...ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE SERIOUS ENTERTAINMENTS IN LONDON"** Sunday Times **"witty, beautiful, compelling stuff"** F.T. Eves 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm LIMITED SEASON TO 10 MAY

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8. **AGATHA CHRISTIE'S** **THE MOUSETRAP** **45th YEAR**

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588 **"BUDDY"** **The Buddy Holly Story** **"BRILLIANT"** Sun **"BUDDY"** **"WONDERFUL STUFF"** Sun Tel **"BUDDY"** Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 **Sunday 4.00** ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF **8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR** Now booking 'till October 4

...LAST TWO WEEKS... STARRING NORTHERN EXPOSURE'S **ROB MORROW** **Birdy** **"STUNNING"** See Comedy Theatre

TRICYCLE THEATRE 0171 328 1000 Alan Howard in **KINGS** by & with Christopher Logue **"THRILLING"** FT

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 (no bkg fee) cc: 420 0000 (bkg fee) **"FRESH, BRAVE & FUNNY"** Telegraph **The New Irish Hit Comedy!** **WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF "HRT"** by Marie Jones **"THE SPIRIT OF SHIRLEY VALENTINE LIVES ON"** Gdn Mon-Sat at 7.45pm, Thur & Sat at 3pm

VICTORIA PALACE 0171 834 1317 The Love Story of Edward & Mrs Simpson **ALWAYS** A NEW MUSICAL Performances From 20 May Mon-Sat at 7.30pm Wed-Sat mats at 3.00pm

**WYN



■ THEATRE 1

National scene change: why the Olivier has been transformed into a theatre in the round



■ THEATRE 2

Alex Jones's distressing but powerful *Noise* is premiered by the Soho Theatre

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ RISING STAR

The composer Paul Gladstone Reid has no trouble in spanning vastly different musical worlds



■ TOMORROW

Portrait of a porn merchant: *The People vs. Larry Flynt* reviewed, and the other top movies

THEATRE: **Andy Lavender** learns how the Olivier was metamorphosed into a theatre in the round. Plus reviews

Cruel but honest

BACK in 1967 the thugs who stoned a baby to death in Edward Bond's *Saved* did not get off scot-free. One of them went to prison amid offstage displays of public fury. As his subsequent descent into raging Marxism showed, Bond was far from pro-police. Indeed, he pretty clearly regarded them as the lackeys of an Establishment ultimately responsible for the very existence of stone-throwing baby-killers. But it did not occur to him that the laws against violence and murder could not and would not be enforced.

Thirty years later, all of those baby-killers would have remained at large and continued to terrorise a community too frightened, apathetic or callous to call the cops. At any rate, that is the inference of Alex Jones's strong, distressing play. True, the violence in *Noise* is a bit less extreme than in *Saved*, and its prime victim two months from being born;

Noise
Soho Theatre

but if you asked me which urban jungle I would rather inhabit, I would take Bond's south London over Jones's Black Country.

For the first act the subject seems to be the one baldly invoked by the play's title. What should Samantha Edmonds's Becky and Graham Bryan's Dan, the teenage couple awaiting the arrival of their baby, do about the awful rock music that pounds out nightly next door? Again and again they put off confronting their neighbour, but end up complaining to their landlords, a somewhat conveniently ineffective housing association. That is a mistake, given that the hi-fi belongs to Andrew Tiernan's Matt.

Noise has its weaknesses. Shouldn't Dan and Becky, coming from a part of town where a family was firebombed for grassing to the fuzz, be less cheerily innocent and more streetwise? But Jones avoids the more predictable dangers. Matt could be a melodramatic psychotic, created for the sake of a lot of cheap second-act tension. Well, he probably is psychotic and he does drum up tension, but behind his mood-swings there is a plausible person: sometimes self-hating, always self-pitying, and capable of convincing himself he has been plunged into a world packed with people denying him his rights, such as playing very loud music at 2am.

A woman in the front row walked out of the first night and I could not blame her, for at that moment Matt was waving a knife at Becky's private parts. But *Noise* is not exploitative, and glib only when Matt offers his own gloss on one of Mrs Thatcher's dicta: "Society doesn't exist any more — s'true, s'official." There's no need for out-of-character point-making. What Jones and Mark Brickman's fine cast shows us is unsettling enough.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ROBIN MAYES



After a year in the planning, consultation and contruction, the formerly thrust-stage Olivier Theatre takes shape as a theatre in the round — or, to be more accurate, ellipse

Eyre takes his seats on the circle line

King Canute sat on his throne on the beach, looked out to sea and commanded the waves to come no further. We know what happened next. Richard Eyre, the director of the National Theatre, sat in his office contemplating his largest auditorium, the Olivier, and commanded that it be transformed from a thrust-stage venue into a theatre in the round. If you have ever visited the Olivier, you will appreciate the audacity.

True, the theatre's 1,200 seats are arranged in a tiered semicircle rather than in straight lines. But the building's concrete walls angle towards the stage like the sides of a huge arrowhead. True, the country has successful theatres in the round in the Stephen Joseph Theatre at Scarborough and the Royal Exchange, Manchester. But these were purpose-built, whereas the Olivier is loosely modelled on the arena at Epidaurus in Greece, and has a deep playing area and a curved thrust. Eyre's mission, however, was to "liberate the space" and he briefed Annie Gosney and Tom Richardson, the Olivier's production manager and her assistant, to do just that. A year later, they have nearly turned the tide.

"We did a lot of sitting in here," says Gosney, reclining in one of the lilac seats of the erstwhile auditorium, "thinking, 'How on earth . . . ?' We kept it on the drawing board for six months before we could even start modelling it." At which point a Heath Robinson approach seemed the most obvious to demonstrate the project's viability. "We mocked up our proposal in the theatre itself with a collection of stepladders, old chairs and towers and brought people from all the departments in the building to see it. That was really good, because they could visualise what it would be like. We went through an unbelievable roster of famous directors, all looking at the proposal. When people heard the idea, they thought it was dreadful. Then, when they came to see the proposals, they were very positive about it."

Which is why the theatre has recently been echoing to the bang of hammer and the screech of jigsaw. The transformation is profound. Making a theatre in the round defies the building's architecture and has involved all manner of technical adjustments.

> "For the first time the space is embraced by the audience"

Rob Barnard, the head of sound, explains that the wall at the back of the stage normally reflects sound into the auditorium. Now it is covered with absorbers. New reflective surfaces have been hung above the playing area. In addition a ring of microphones and speakers above the stage provide "active sound enhancement". Meanwhile the lighting rig has been reconceived to illuminate the actors from all sides.

The stage has been built out into the first three rows of the old auditorium, and a curved seating block added at the back. There are extra rows of seating alongside the concrete jaws at the front of the auditorium and in the small balconies at either side, usually occupied by musicians. The entire circle will be closed off, which reduces the seating capacity by a third. The new shape, it has to be said, is not truly in the round, being more of an ellipse, with the audience thinner at either end. "Well, it's 'in the egg'," Gosney says.

She stresses that all this effort has been expended not to satisfy a last folly of the outgoing director but to provide a "kit of parts" which will always be available for future seasons in the round. Indeed the project would not have received the green light without the agreement of Trevor Nunn, the incoming director. It will certainly give the venue another set of options.

Theatre in the round has its limitations. It is less suitable for productions which benefit from structural sets. It denies you the opportunity to fly in large objects or items of scenery, or to organise the stage in a painterly way. Instead, it throws great emphasis on the actors themselves. It is by nature intimate and enclosed and — in line with the principles of the circus or the bullring — invites continual shifts in the staging.

It is said that, when the director Peter Brook comes to a new space, he asks where its centre is. Not its dead centre, you understand, but its hot spot. "We have managed to get that spot to be the centre of the new stage area," Richardson says.

A happy circumstance, one hopes, which will be exploited by the two shows that constitute the Olivier's first season in the round. Jeremy Sams is to direct a production of Peter Weiss's play *Marat/Sade*, which is set in the bath house of an asylum. Photographs of the model suggest that Stephen Brimson Lewis's design makes much of a circular walkway suspended above the stage. The season opens, however, with a production of Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, directed by Theatre de Complicite's Simon McBurney. You can see the logic of the pairing: Brecht's great parable play in the hands of one of British theatre's most gifted mavericks. Complicite's fluid style, reliant on props and performers rather than sets, promises to lend itself to the new arena, circular, egg-shaped or what you will.

The production is designed by Tim Hatley, who has come up with a simple, Islamic-style floor (the play is set in Georgia) and a canopy which covers the audience. The Olivier in its usual format is notoriously difficult to design for, with its cavernous depths and wide open spaces. "I have to say," Hatley says, "I would usually cower away from the thought of doing anything in here. But because it's in the round, I've had none of those fears. For the first time I feel the space is being embraced by the audience. You feel there's a focus; you really think something's going to happen there and you want to watch. I'd be very surprised if it didn't work."

● *The Caucasian Chalk Circle previews from Friday and opens on April 21 (0171-928 2252)*

Tough techno assault

Virtual World Orchestra
Glasgow

BLOOD, sweat and tears are what you would expect to be shed at any artistic endeavour, but to extract those self-same bodily fluids from the audience as they enter the arena is to turn the whole notion of "performance" on its head. Yet that is one of the head-expanding introductions on offer at the Old Fruitmarket to entice, bemuse, and amuse us at the start of the latest of Nacionale Vite Activa's high-tech theme park assaults on the senses. Interaction is the buzz word here though, as we are invited to apply for a passport into a brand new nation state or be interviewed about our innermost desires as roving cameras transmit the results onto massive screens to form a communications collage.

Things begin properly and appropriately enough with a big bang, signalling an exhilarating evening of sensory overload and New Age evolution set to a non-stop electronic pulse beat. Robotic mosquitoes dance from the rooftop while giant balloons that could have rolled out of the 1960s cult TV series *The Prisoner* descend from the ceiling, one of them bursting like a blister to reveal its creator. Rap poet Dael Orlandersmith offers a human face alongside a cautious critique of the technological revolution: in the beginning was the word, after all.

Like a post-modern circus freak, performance artist Stellarc, wired for sound and everything else besides, gives an involuntary dance routine dictated by whoever's pushing the button on the Internet. A rhetorical address from Slovenian art terrorists NSK invades the space with ambiguous pomp and circumstance before ten drummer boys and girls barge in, kicking things up a gear and getting everybody moving.

It is slick, seductive, and manipulative. Crucially, though, because of the sheer democracy of the media embraced, it is refreshingly critical of its own territory. The director/producer Angus Farquhar has blown minds and circuits, banging his own drum with military precision and an instinctive feel for spectacle ever since his days with the iconoclastic metal bashers Test Department. His love affair with technology has been a gradual and natural progression, as he wonderfully oversteps the mark every time. Making connections is the key to it all here, with a form of industrial tribalism forged out of club culture at its heart.

Familiar elements of trendy, pre-millennium zeitgeist fever abounds, as everything bar the virtual kitchen sink is thrown into a great big digital melting pot, simmering slowly until it erupts into a full-on club experience meltdown. And as it mixes interviews recorded earlier in with the beats, it suggests that what we are hearing really are songs for a future generation.

Yet kidology and false optimism are at play here too, making one wonder how far we have to go to reclaim the natural high. Bigger is not necessarily better. Then again, somebody probably said much the same thing after the invention of the wheel. For the forseeable future anyway, it seems with techno, techno, techno in the front line of this brave new world, there really are no limits. Virtually, anyway.

NEIL COOPER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

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Track record: At 17, he founded the 15-piece Fanré Jazz touring orchestra. At 18, he was much in demand as a solo pianist. At 23, he helped to set up the Axiom Foundation, with "a uniquely holistic approach" to music. Other credits include a rock opera, *War Function*, and a string quartet premiered in 1995 by members of the London Sinfonietta.

House of chords: When he was seven, his father, a Jamaican-born architect, started teaching him guitar at the family home in Sheffield. "We would listen to everything. The variety of styles I work in has its roots in that experience."

Other influences? Schoenberg, John Cage and Cecil Taylor, the pianist and professor at the New England Conservatoire. "He opened my eyes to a world of poetry, music and movement."

Sound ideas: "I don't believe in any kind of musical orthodoxy. Whatever sound I want to make, I'll make it."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

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CHANGING TIMES

Slip of the tongue beats the soundbite

Sunday night's BBC1 debate among the three would-be Chancellors of the Exchequer proved that a presidential-style television match should never happen here. You can't leave out the Liberal Democrats, yet three's a crowd. You can't have them in if you want a real fight between real contenders.

This may be a good time to dismiss another supposed American electioneering threat: the soundbite. Actually, there's nothing American about these. "You've never had it so good" was certainly home-grown. But good soundbites are rarer than you think. Watch any evening's news. Spot the spin-doctored bright phrases, the painful alliterations, the clumsy metaphors, then see how they fail to make the papers next day. It's almost enough to make you feel sorry for the politicians.



BRENDA MADDOX

A few little words blurted out by accident are another matter. If only Tony Blair could take back "like an English parish council". He can't. He said them, in an interview with *The Scotsman* about the proposed devolved parliament for Scotland. The Scottish Labour Party is in uproar, the Tories gleeful, all because Mr Blair tried for a homely simile to explain something that, for the moment, is better left vague. Elections make Freudians of us all. The chance remark that reveals the truth within is the trophy we crave.

Politicians know this. Journalists know this. That is why they are natural adversaries in any interview. They have conflicting aims. The clash is all the more bitter in the broadcast media than in the press because it is being played against the clock. It is hopeless for broadcasters to persuade politicians that they have been fairly treated on air. Candidates for public office will never accept that some issues are newsier than others. What's more, they have been trained never to give a direct answer, to try to slip in more words than the time allows, and to keep talking until forcibly interrupted. In the ensuing clash of voices, they trust that the well-bred British audience will blame the interviewer for bad manners.

The popularity of virtuoso interrupters such as the BBC's Jeremy Paxman shows that this trust is as out of date as queueing for buses. Today's audience is grateful to the voice that cuts in to stop the waffle. It is more likely to take against the politician who greedily insists "Just let me finish . . " than against, say, John Humphrys, with his "Well, make it quick then." It does not help the uneasy relations between the two breeds that politicians still tend to look down on journalists as a lesser species. Interviewers never call politicians by their first names. But a polite "Tell me, Minister . . " will be invariably answered by a matey, "Well, John", or "Jeremy", "Jim", or "Sue".

Now that the BBC's Martin Bell has crossed the great divide and is turning himself from a reporter into a politician I look forward to seeing him handle a needling Paxman-type question about his qualifications as a legislator. But my question is different. What is wrong with BBC News and Current Affairs that they cannot find active duty for their best people? Not only Bell, but Paxman and Kate Adie are under-used, and the premature departure of Mark Tully still rankles.

Our chief public service broadcaster appears to be so conscious of its dependence on the goodwill of politicians that it feels it must play over-safe at election time — even at the risk of boring the audience to death. We are getting endless extensions of the news and election phone-ins. All the broadcasters are trying to lessen the boredom by interviewing the voters: a mistake.

If there is anything more boring than a politician, it is the voter-in-the-street, chosen from a barrelful of stock characters: a yobbo in jeans, a Mrs Merton, a pair of smart young women carrying briefcases and, from time to time, an outspoken supporter of the Referendum Party. Even worse are those studio discussions where suspiciously crisp questions are read from little pieces of paper by seemingly random members of the audience. The performance is about as spontaneous as *King Lear*.

What is the opposite of soundbite? Manifesto. You have to look long and hard through the voluminous fine print of the main party manifestos to find any reference to media policy. Fair enough. There cannot be a single vote to be swayed by a stand one way or another on any media issue.

But British television will be profoundly affected by the next government, whatever it may be. The BBC's current licence fee agreement runs out in April 2002. Well before then, the government of the day will have to decide whether to extend this quirky but effective form of finance. Should the BBC be privatised? Converted into a subscription service? And can any government resist for more than a year or two the temptation to sell off Channel 4? (Melvyn Bragg of LWT informs me that he has been wrongly listed among supporters of Channel 4's privatisation.)

On the two phone-ins I participated in last week about the new Channel 5, a common fear among callers was that we face a future of hundreds of indistinguishable channels. "Not as long as the BBC is supported by the licence fee" was my answer. Yet only the Liberal Democrats have made a manifesto commitment to maintaining it. What about the other two main parties?

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

We are amused at the Palace

IT MAY not have been much in evidence at his earnest press conference on Monday, but Martin Bell, the former BBC war correspondent who has offered to stand for Parliament, does have a penchant for the droll. So bored was he some years ago covering a tour to Canada by the Prince and then Princess of Wales that he decided to deliver his report in verse. Even the Palace was amused, we hear.





Anderson turns to TV; Clark faces Parliamentary Pete

MIXED news emerges from some of the first independent research on Channel 5. While 100 per cent of the 867 people within the Channel 5 catchment area who were questioned last week by Western International Media, the media buying and planning agency, said they had heard of the station, more than 4 in 10 people groused about the lousy picture. Ivor Hussein, research director of WIM, says: "Forty-three per cent complained of poor picture quality, and of those 65 per cent said that it would prevent them from further viewing."

Aerial installers must be rubbing their hands with glee.

Babe watch

THE ATTEMPT by the *Baywatch* babe Pamela Anderson-Lee to become a movie star fizzled out with her action film, *Barb Wire*, sinking faster than a lead balloon. So it comes as no surprise that her reps are off this week to the giant Nip TV market in Cannes, France, to see if they can find international backing for a big new television series for her. While *Baywatch* looks like an American show, it was actually funded primarily with backing from ITV and Germany's Kirsch Group.

AS THE general election looms, Chris Wright, the entertainment millionaire who owns the London music station Heart 106.2FM, faces an unusual dilemma.

The station has decided to field its own candidate in the Kensington and Chelsea constituency against the Tory charmer Alan Clark. A member of the breakfast show crew volunteered and obligingly changed his name to Parliament Pete. His election manifesto is suitably loony.

As a resident of Kensington and Chelsea himself, Wright now faces the dilemma of whether to back his own man or to follow his conscience.

Survival tips

THE PRESS pack put out by Unesco to mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3 makes grim reading. In 1996 between 40 and 50 journalists or other media professionals were murdered in the course of their work. There has been a rise of violence against journalists by drug traffickers and organised criminals or by groups professing extremist religious or political ideas.

Unesco has produced a pocket survival guide for reporters in the field containing tips on how to avoid mines, booby traps, snipers and ambushes. The booklet also has advice for dealing with hand-to-hand confrontation with an attacker ("Do not let your hands dangle") and for hostages ("Try not to believe threats of execution").

NO SOONER had Robert Snell, the most put-upon husband in the Radio 4 soap The Archers, *been offered a job in Grimsby, then offers of help started flooding in to the BBC. These include an invitation to Lynda Snell from Jane Indreland, president of the Humberside International Women's Club, soliciting her help in running the group's next Christmas bazaar. "This area is not the cultural backwater that many people imagine," Ms Indreland enthused.*

So excited about the Snells' possible arrival was Councillor Steve Norton, chairman of the North East Lincolnshire Council's Economic Development Committee, that he issued an immediate press statement. "North East Lincolnshire is a centre of excellence in the food and chemical sectors of industry. I am sure Robert and Lynda Snell would find Grimsby a pleasant place to live and work," he gushed.

Forced out

THE SACKINGS continue at Al Fayed's weekly pamphlet, *Punch*. Previous casualties of his hire-and-fire policy include high-profile editors and columnists such as Peter McKay, Julie Burchill and Peregrine Worsthorne. Now the purge has been extended to the more innocuous ranks of the sub-editors. Last week, two of them suddenly found themselves without jobs. "It was quite extraordinary," an insider tells *The Listener*. "They were given five minutes to clear their desks."

The power and the influence

ADVERTISING

IS ADVERTISING more influential than politics? Does it have the power to shape society more than politicians?

This was to be discussed on March 24 at a debate in the House of Commons organised by the Insitute of Practitioners in Advertising. The talk did not take place because Parliament went into recess, but the issue is a lasting preoccupation.

Winston Fletcher, former chairman of the Advertising Association (AA), believes he and his colleagues are, indeed, most powerful. "Advertising is part of the customer-orientated business system which is increasingly diminishing politicians' powers to control economies," he says. "What consumers want and what global companies provide frequently override the decision of politicians."

On a micro level, Mr Fletcher adds, advertising persuaded people to wear their seat belts, raised the issue of drink-driving, built awareness of UK charities and brought state privatisations to the attention of the nation.

Roger Holland, chief executive of the Joint Industry Committee for Regional Press Research and one of the participants lined up for the debate, says: "Real public sector influence is wielded by bureaucrats, not politicians, but what really affects society now is the private sector, which is fuelled by advertising."

However, Hugh Burkitt, chairman of Court Burkitt and another advertising practitioner who was scheduled for the debate, disagrees. "Advertising is just about selling brands and gaining market share," he says. "That is its primary job. It is extremely expensive, it is heavily censored and it borrows from other cultures. In other words, it doesn't set the agenda or shape society; it reflects it."

Mr Burkitt says advertising only follows business decisions. Despite the effectiveness of last year's BT campaign, that advertising did not create the telephone network. "It was the politicans who opened BT up to competition, then the advertising men took over," he says.

On the other hand, there is much statistical evidence to suggest that in countries where tobacco advertising has been banned, there has been no drop in smoking. Industry estimates indicate that Norway has the highest population of teenage smokers in the whole of Europe, yet it outlawed cigarette advertising in 1975.

Jonathan Bullock, head of public affairs at the AA, is similarly dismissive of advertising's powers. "Advertising may affect brand choice but that is really all," he says. "Politics sets the laws within which advertising and all commercial activity operates."

Mr Fletcher believes that the burgeoning economic power of consumers to choose what they want and to ensure that companies provide it is "a great manifestation of personal freedom. The power of the marketplace exemplified by advertising provides most people with wealth and economic freedom, and the growth of material wealth is almost an unqualified good."

Mr Bullock adds that "because we live in a democracy it is fitting that politics should hold the greater power. That is what the people vote for. There has to be a democratic accountability for all business and commerce."

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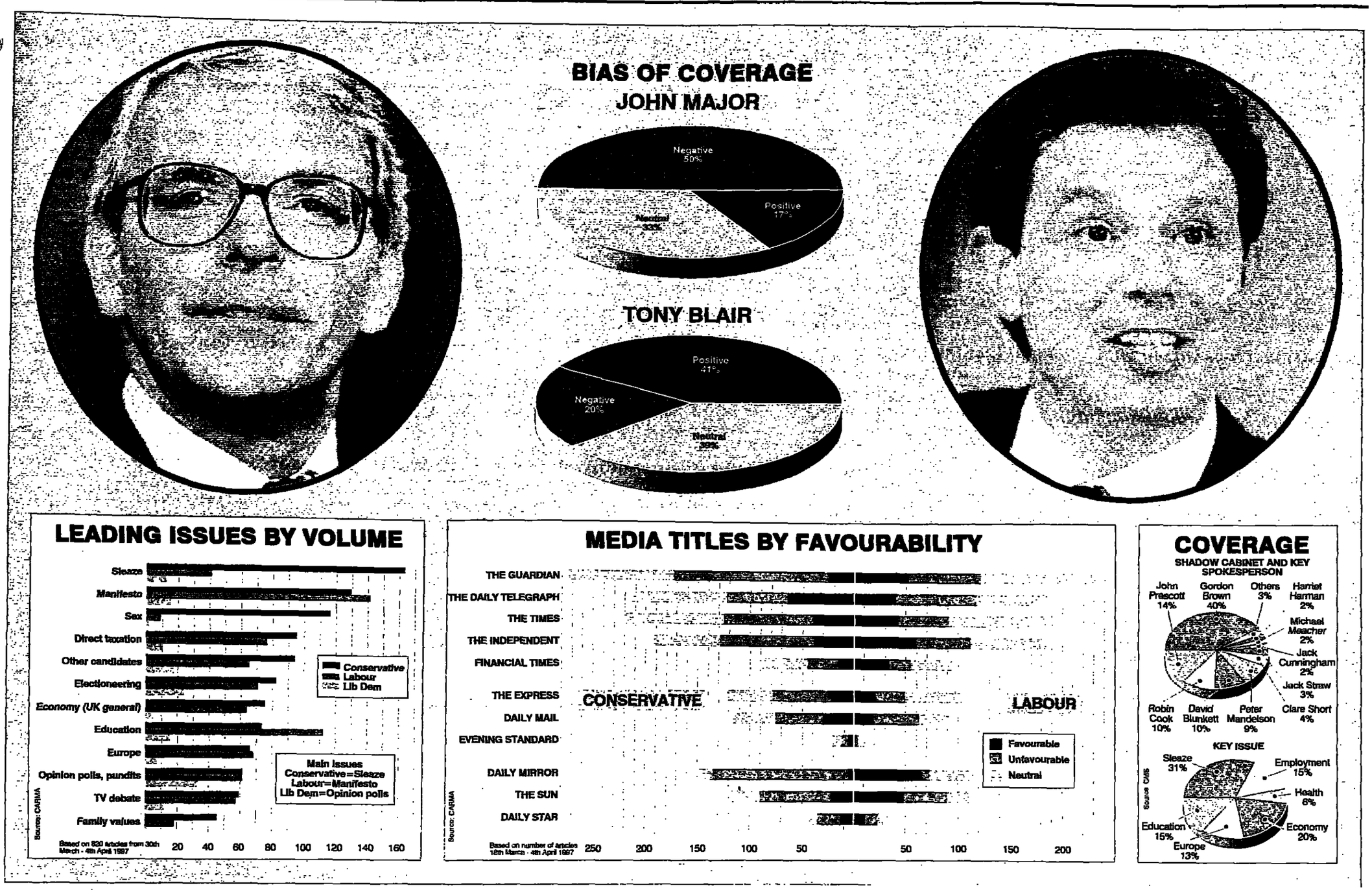
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How Tony Blair won the battle for the front page

Brian MacArthur reports on a transformation in the Tory press

After three weeks, the general election is already setting one notable record. As Tony Blair tacks almost daily away from the party of Clause Four, Labour is getting its fairest treatment from Fleet Street for 50 years.

At least three companies, MORI, CARMA International and CMS:Precis, are monitoring the national daily and Sunday papers and measuring the tone, prominence and placement of election reports.

Their studies — and CARMA has now researched 2,195 articles since March 18 — confirm that Tony Blair has consistently outperformed John Major in the battle for headlines that help new Labour.

Even in the week after he announced the election, 50 per cent of the coverage devoted to Major was negative, compared with only 17 per cent that was positive, according to CMS. Against that, only 20 per cent of the coverage of Blair was negative and 41 per cent was positive. Still more pleasing for the Labour spin-doctors, given the treatment of Neil Kinnock's Labour Party in 1987 and 1992, when the "Tory tabloids" continually dumped on Labour, was that almost four in ten reports were judged neutral in their impact.

Overall coverage was judged 65 per cent positive for Labour, against 34 per cent for the Tories and 1 per cent for the Liberal Democrats.

Sex and sleaze, the issue that refused to go away in the first three weeks of the campaign and which returned to the news agenda on Sunday when Martin Bell announced he would stand against Neil Hamilton in Tatton, is obviously the issue that has had most effect on the coverage of Major and the Tories.

One in three of the articles in the first week of the campaign was devoted to sleaze, against 20 per cent on economic issues and 15 per cent each on education and employment.

It was the same story two weeks later, according to CARMA, which shows in a study of 820 articles last week, that 279 were on sex or sleaze and the Tories, compared with 129 on the Tory manifesto. Labour scored 141 articles on its manifesto — and only 50 on sleaze (most directed at the Tories).

Apart from Blair, Gordon Brown is the Labour politician who has received the biggest coverage, followed by John Prescott, Robin Cook, David Blunkett, and campaign manager Peter Mandelson, the five men most involved with Blair in preparing the manifesto.

At this stage of the 1992 election, when Labour was outnumbered by three to one in Fleet Street, Roy Hattersley, as deputy leader of the Labour Party, was accused of "lying in his teeth" by *The Sun* for daring to suggest that the conduct of the Tory press towards Labour was a crime against a free society. He had said that the Tory tabloids were conspiring with the Tory party to create rather than report the news.

Yet in 1997 the Tory tabloids are giving Labour a fair run — so fair that there is a growing sense of impotent frustration among the few national newspapers now carrying the loyalist flag for the Tories.

As Trevor Kavanagh pointed out in *The Sun*, the announcement that Martin Bell was standing against Neil Hamilton in Tatton was superbly timed. It was released only minutes before Fleet Street went to press and succeeded in wiping Labour U-turns off the front pages. So furious was *The Daily Telegraph* that it devoted most of its opinion page yesterday to attacks on media manipulation of election coverage.

Media power in the 1990s was comparable to the ascent of the unions in the 1970s, declared Paul Johnson as he denounced the "hysterical fury" in some newspapers, "character assassins" at *The Sun* and *News of the World*, and media "tyranny".

Johnson's target was the liberal press — but it is not only the liberal press that considers that the conduct of Neil Hamilton is a serious rather than a side issue. *The Sun*, *Daily Star*, *Daily Mail* and *The Times* — as well as *The Guardian* and *The Mirror* — all devoted leading articles yesterday to urging Tatton to dump him so that the issue of sleaze could be cleared from the election agenda.

What a difference Blair has made. That is precisely the accusation that Johnson and William Rees-Mogg in *The Times* are now making against *The Sun* for its support of Blair — but this time from the Right.

The fairer ride that Blair is getting from the tabloids was shown last week after the publication of the Labour manifesto. Blair's "Trust Me" pledge made the main front page headline in *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Sun* and was chosen for the main inside page headlines in the *Daily Mail* and *The Mirror*.

Note that the story of the manifesto was inside the *Mail* — as it was in *The Express*. Neither of middle England's two Tory tabloids featured the manifesto on the front page. Spin-doctors usually want to see their best stories on front pages. At this election, Labour's bowlers will be delighted that the *Mail* and *Express* relegated the story inside.

That fairer coverage is again confirmed by CARMA. In its reporting of Labour, *The Express*, for example, has published 21 articles that were favourable, 28 that were unfavourable and 54 considered neutral. For *The Sun*, the score is 48 favourable, 41 unfavourable and 30 neutral — a huge difference in approach from the past two elections.

According to CARMA, the papers with the most balanced coverage so far have been *The Times*, *The Independent*, *Financial Times* and *The Express*, each with a tilt to Labour, mainly because of the sleaze issue. For the record, the scores for *The Times* so far are Labour: 42 favourable, 48 unfavourable, 96 neutral; Tory: 39 favourable, 85 unfavourable and 97 neutral.

Danger, children viewing

Fears over Love Bites mask a threat to children's TV itself, says **Patricia Holland**

Are some television programmes made for children "stealing their innocence", as the *Daily Mail* accused the controversial *Love Bites* (LWT/Granada)? The worry is not new. Children's television viewing has long provoked high anxiety.

Parents are naturally worried about the secret moments children spend alone with their television sets. We are hearing about a threat to childhood itself. But the dangers came from another quarter altogether. While the perennial problem of teenage sexuality preoccupies the commentators, it may well be that the future of all children's television in its present form is under threat.

Our familiar television environment is changing fast and will deeply affect children's programming. After the launch of Channel 5, as the last conventional terrestrial channel, our rapidly multiplying cable and satellite channels will soon be joined by an as-yet unknown number of digital channels.

More television, especially more for children, is not in itself a bad thing. The problem is that more channels will mean that each will get a smaller share of a finite audience and necessarily smaller budgets.

It could be that we will lose the programmes we love as well as those, such as *Loves Bites*, which we love to hate. Domestically produced children's programming, protected by a public service environment, is having the rug pulled from under its feet.

From quality dramas to innovative cartoons, the quality and diversity of our present range of children's programmes was celebrated at Sunday's awards ceremony at the British Academy for Film and Television Arts (Bafta).

But budgeting constraints are already beginning to bite. Greater competition is putting pressure on broadcasters to deliver bigger audiences rather than risk developing new programme ideas. Factual programmes such as the Bafta winner *Wise Up* (Carlton, for Channel 4) may come under threat.

The substantial budgets made available for programmes such as *Teletubbies*, the BBC's delightful new series for very young children, will no longer be available. An innovative and popular drama series such as the Bafta-nominated *Demon Headmaster* (BBC), which was previously made in runs of six, may now be required to expand to 13 or even 36 episodes, weakening the storyline and with less value placed on production.

Already children are offered more easy-to-watch, bought-in programmes from America. The drive to find commercial funding means that programmes are often toy-based — little more than extended commercials for marketing spin-offs.

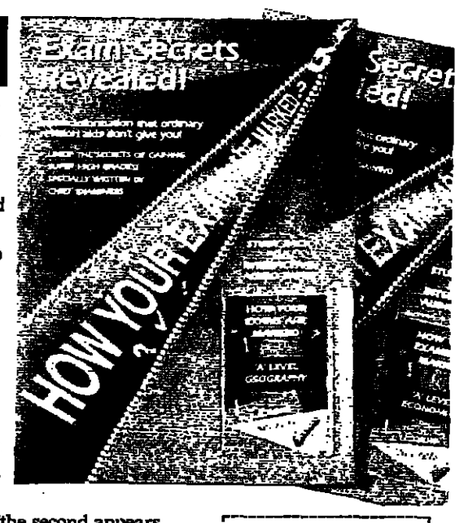
There are Thatcher's Children, as the title of a recent book calls them, trailing the legacy of an exploitative market philosophy which reduces them to consumers. If television is to serve their needs, they should be recognised as a separate audience to whom broadcasters have a special responsibility.

And it will include programmes that are not always acceptable to adults. As well as the educational and the entertaining, it should indulge children's taste for the scary, appeal to the cruder side of their humour, and recognise their increasing desire to leave childhood behind.

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For details of where to send CV (by 14th April), please call Alison Fletcher on 0171 636 6184 ext. 150. NO AGENCIES.

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Rapid growing South London Insurance Claims Company seek enthusiastic claims handler. Candidates should have either a good Degree qualification or minimum 3 years non marine/motor experience. Must be personable, numerate, articulate, good with people & W.P skills. Full training provided & support for progression to Chartered Institute qualifications. Reply with CV to Box No 4166

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The London Institute, comprising of five of the world's most famous Colleges of Art, Design and Communications is seeking a Secretary/Administrator in the International Development Department assisting the senior PA and Director with typing, filing and administrative duties. Suit someone with one year's work experience or returning to work. 50 wpm typing. Audio and good telephone manner. S/hd an advantage.

Please contact: Amanda Jackson, Ashley Stewart Ltd, 4 Margaret Street, London W1N 7LG Tel: 0171 580 9103 or Fax: 0171 580 9104

Do you have good manners?

Susan Gray on office etiquette — from meeting visitors to telling the lothario in accounts to push off



Nobody is born knowing good etiquette, it has to be learnt, says Judi James, the author of *The Office Jungle: the Survivors' Guide to the Nylon Shag Pile Life* and former model.

"Secretarial staff are often involved in meeting and greeting clients and guests, so it's important they feel confident in what they're doing," she says. "I compare meeting and greeting to ballroom dancing: someone has to take the lead and it should be the secretary or PA."

Ms James says guests like to know the name of the person showing them the way to the meeting, so secretaries should follow the example of their American counterparts and have their own business cards to give out. The names and titles of visitors are also a contentious issue, and Ms James urges caution. "Err on the side of formality and use titles and second names first of all. Being asked to change to a first name is fine, but being told to use a more formal address is a reprimand." Of course some visitors make it easy: Lord Archer famously shakes hands saying: "Call me Jeffrey."

Lifts and swipe cards are another sticky issue. "Some company cultures insist women have precedence on entering and leaving lifts, so men have to do the paso doble inside the car to make sure women can get out first," Ms James says.

Companies should have clear etiquette policies, because the increasing blandness and uniformity of services offered by high street names makes them indistinguishable in the public's mind.

"In the faceless 1990s, good personal contact is important. Modern, correct procedure has a terrific effect on a company's external image and customer service can be the only thing that marks it out from its competitors," Ms James says.

Robert Elms, the writer and broadcaster, is also a champion of good manners. "As life becomes more aggressive, manners become even more important. In fact, society's only salvation is to have a code of being decent to each other."

Mr Elms believes good manners are not a sexist issue and the workplace should evolve a code of behaviour towards people rather than gender. "If I see someone with a heavy box I'll open the door for them regardless of their sex, and it's the same with holding the lift. I hope that people would do the same for me," he says.

Good manners are part of the larger context of good communication, and vital to a company's profitability, Freda Gardiner, chairwoman of the Secretarial Development Network, says. "Managers and secretaries need to communicate well or teamwork breaks down. Both roles are vital for organisational success, so secretaries and managers should treat each other with respect."

Ms Gardiner suggests that managers should show respect to support staff by making time to talk to them on a regular basis. "Ideally there should be a weekly debrief on the respective managerial and secretarial roles," she says. Managers who fail to treat secretaries with respect will end up with a demotivated office team, and are thus wasting the company's most valuable asset.

"Being late or not showing up for appointments is the height of ill manners. It says to the other person that their time is of no value," Ms Gardiner continues. She says that if someone is running even ten minutes late for a meeting, they should let the other side know.

Secretaries should show respect for their work by dressing professionally. Temps who are working at an investment bank one week and an environmental charity the next, are advised to dress formally on day one, wearing a suit and make-up, and then to dress more casually if the employer's culture allows. "It's better to be over-dressed than underdressed, especially for women wanting to break out of the secretarial role. Dress for the job you want, not the one you're in."

Professional dress generates respect and makes secretaries less likely to be taken advantage of, according to Ms Gardiner. "Wearing a mini-skirt and low-cut blouse shows how you feel about yourself." Judi James says that workplace physical contact is unlikely to go beyond a handshake these days because the fear of sexual harassment is taken so seriously.

Ms Gardiner adds that if someone in the office does overstep the mark, "tell them you feel uncomfortable early on, before it becomes an issue".

● *Secretarial Development Network 01530 223036; The Office Jungle, HarperCollins £5.99.*

A note for your diary

THE TIMES Crème '97, the annual exhibition for executive assistants, PAs, office managers and administrators, is being held from June 11 to 13 at Olympia 2 in London.

In the educational seminars programme, top professionals will offer advice on interpersonal skills with the emphasis on communication, presentation and confidence.

A new feature is The Career Village. In daily presentations, experts will offer advice on a number of subjects including psychometric testing, body language, interview techniques and CV preparation.

More than 150 companies from all relevant business sectors will be exhibiting at the event. Visitors can meet suppliers, obtain quotes from business travel specialists, discover new conference venues and keep track of the latest developments in business technology.

☐ *For further information: 0171-453 5342.*

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Polished PA with Chairman/Director level experience required to work for this prestigious Plc. It is essential that you have proven organisational skills, a proactive and energetic streak and the ability to handle swiftly changing priorities without turning a hair! Solid financial background. Age: 25-40. Skills: 90/50. Please call Sarah Burt or Sam Garner on 0171 390 7000.
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More Money...
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Do you want to earn enough money to continually treat yourself to lots of life's little luxuries? Do you want to work in fantastic offices and spend your lunch hour working out in the gym? Well now you can working as secretary to these charming Directors of this Investment Bank. You will be fully rewarded for your enthusiasm and drive. Skills: Word for Windows, Powerpoint and 50 wpm typing. Age to 34. Call Amanda Chesson on 0171 390 7000.
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Excellent Bens
Climb up the secretarial ladder with this international firm of management consultants. Working as a Managers' secretary, supporting a team of 3, you will be dealing with diaries, travel arrangements, timesheets and telephone queries. This is a demanding position needing a proactive approach & flexibility towards hours. At least 18 months solid secretarial experience. 55 wpm and knowledge of word could secure this exciting position for you. Call Lucy Thomas on 0171 434 4512.
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Team Player
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Prestigious American corporation seeks a senior level team secretary who really knows how to look after two busy directors. Combine your first class secretarial skills with creative flair to produce tip-top deal making presentations. The ability to work to deadlines, co-ordinate complex worldwide travel, troubleshoot and provide strong lines of communication are all crucial as you will be their office lynchpin. Shorthand and advanced Microsoft Office essential. Please call Alison Scott 0171 434 4512.
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Tip Top PA
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A well established multi-national company based in stunning offices, seek an exceptional PA to support a charismatic MD. He needs a superb right hand person who is resourceful, committed and naturally proactive and can successfully deal with the fast paced world of commodity broking. If you love working in a truly cosmopolitan environment, can cope with pressure, have 60wpm typing, Word and Excel then please call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512.
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This International management consultancy located in the West End requires a "people person" secretary to support their highly regarded and professional HR team.
The team's function is to attract and recruit top international graduates and support staff through to senior personnel. As the new team member you will be the first point of contact on the phone and face to face, dealing with candidates, colleagues and suppliers. If you thrive on people contact and excel at organising you could be well suited to join this motivated and lively group of HR experts.
Skills: 65wpm, knowledge of Windows, a graphics package and a minimum of 1 year's secretarial experience.
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If you want to get into Banking but prefer a more "homely" environment than this Private Investment Bank in Chancery Lane could be for you. Supporting two VERY busy Directors you can expect a full PA role but not too much overtime! Aged 28-35 and a steady CV essential. Interested? Call Anna.

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Fabulous opportunity for an experienced Secretary aged 25/30 looking for their next job to be heavy on the admin and light on the secretarial! You will need to have an organised and methodical approach, outgoing personality and bags of common sense! Previous financial or personnel experience essential. Call Anna for an immediate interview.

PA To 3 Directors
£18,500 + 25 Days Holiday
Are you bright, spanky and pro-active? Have you got MS Office, enjoy 50-60% typing and want regular hours? Are you in your late 20's and familiar with a small international environment? If the answer is yes, then come and join a growing multi-national company based in Holborn. Phone Deborah now!

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SOW THE SEEDS FOR THE SPRINGTIME HARVEST.....
- If you are aged 18 - 40?
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AND REAP THE REWARDS.....
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We are recognised as one of London's leading Media Secretarial Consultancies with a media client list which is about as blue chip as they come. Our clients within the world of
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Salaries £13-28,000
PR Co looking for PR/Marketing Ass with secretarial skills - Covent Garden
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Property Co-Piccadilly-Receptionist/Secretary
Finance Co-based in SW1-Numerate secretary with audio & W4W's.
Please call Brindley-Clark Associates
Tel: 0171 734 9821 or Fax: 0171 734 9828

INSTITUTE OF REVENUES, RATING AND VALUATION
PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR/ ADMINISTRATOR
The Institute, the professional body for people in the public and private sector involved in local taxation, is looking to appoint a new Personal Assistant to its Director, Colin Farrington.
This is an important secretarial post for someone with advanced secretarial and administrative skills, willing to work in a flexible and professional way in a demanding environment.
You must be trained and experienced to a high level and be proficient in Microsoft Office and specifically Word for Windows 95.
Salary: £18k per annum plus usual benefits.
Please ring 0171 831 3505 for information pack BEFORE APPLYING: no advance CVs, no agencies. Closing date for applications is Friday 18 April 1997.
The Institute is an equal opportunities employer.

AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY
A major travel client is seeking a unique individual, within or from outside the travel industry, to act as the internal co-ordinator for all activity generated by its external PR consultants.
The position is not limited to PR professionals - someone with first rate administrative and communication skills may apply - but a keen interest in and knowledge of the ski market is preferred.
The successful candidate will report directly to the Chief Executive. He/she should have a mature approach and an ability to work with senior colleagues.
If you believe you have the right qualities and experience, please write in the first instance, enclosing your cv. to: Addison Willars, Cliffe House, Parkside Avenue, Wimbledon, London SW19 5ES.

SECRETARY/ PERSONAL ASSISTANT
City Livery Company seeks an experienced Secretary to work for the Clerk.
Suitable applicants will possess first class secretarial skills, including shorthand (minute-taking forms a significant part of the job) and be experienced in Word Perfect. Essential requirement is ability and willingness to work harmoniously in a small team.
Suit mature person aged 40-50;
Salary about £17,500, plus benefits.
Apply in writing with full CV to: The Clerk, The Vintners' Company, Vintners' Hall, Upper Thames Street, LONDON EC4V 3BJ

ACCOUNTS SECRETARY - KNIGHTSBRIDGE
We are an International Organisation looking for an intelligent, enthusiastic young person to assist in our lively & very busy accounts dept.
Previous Office Admin. experience is preferred, with use of microsoft W4W/Excel Packages. Numeracy, excellent written English, clear neat handwriting and a proficient telephone manner are also important factors. You need to enjoy team-work and have a calm and adaptable approach. In return, we offer a competitive salary and first-class working conditions.
NB Please send a current C.V. with covering letter to: Linda Greaves, No. 6 Princes Gate, London, SW7 1QJ

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT
We are looking for someone with secretarial skills to assume a commercial role within our small but successful trading company in SW11. Maintaining control over our database and dealing activities together with full support for two very mobile Directors is the prime requirement. Computer literate and a good organiser you would enjoy the responsibility and authority that goes with the position. We offer a negotiable package with profit linked bonus.
Apply in confidence to Box No 4289

Personal Assistant/Secretary required for Managing Director of small city based insurance group.
You should have an academic background and be versatile and self-motivated. Good telephone manner. Computer skills would be an advantage as well as knowledge of 1 or more languages.
Salary will depend on qualifications and past experience.
Please apply in writing with full CV to Miss Arjo Bakker, fax 0171 626 6679 or Phone 0171 334 9604.

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Unit 4,500 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4NZ
Expanding company in new offices requires experienced, intelligent PA/Secretary to work for Chief Executive, Director and Company Secretary. Good shorthand, audio and wp skills (Excel/Lotus and Word). Senior level experience a necessity. Legal background /experience an advantage.
Ability to work under pressure and on own initiative. Flexible approach required in an extremely varied role. Opportunity to get fully involved.
Handwritten applications with CV in confidence to: The Company Secretary.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PA
PR Consultant with varied clients (high tech to leisure), requires experienced PA/ Secretary with Apple Mac/Microsoft Word, book-keeping and PR Agency skills. Accuracy and speed vital, initiative and good presentation essential. Salary £15,000. Fax or send CV to: WSM Wordsworth Limited, 23/24 Margaret Street, London W1N 7LB.
Fax: 0171 636 2292.

OFFICE/OPERATIONS MANAGER
- wanted for small, lively, entrepreneurial company based in London, W10 selling environmentally friendly office products. The job involves running a busy office of four people, controlling a 7 strong team of drivers/engineers, ensuring customer service, solving all sorts of problems and guaranteeing a 100% level of efficiency. Lots of responsibility and involvement. Ideally you should be 24 + with bright, outgoing personality, lots of enthusiasm and be computer/WP literate. Could suit ex-senior secretary seeking a challenge, but attitude more important than experience. Must be N/S. Salary c.£15,000-£16,000.
Please send CV to Bill, LaserLife, 21 Grand Union Centre, West Row, London, W10 5AS or call 0181 969 9594.

BORED SECRETARIES.
If you are looking for an opportunity to move away from secretarial, join Foxton's Property Management Department. Run your own Property Management section taking responsibility for 100 properties or more, in a progressive fast moving organisation. Must be well educated, hard working, have a great sense of humour, sound comp skills, will to learn, car driver Salary £18 - £22k.
Tel 0171 573 2848.

DIRECTORS SECRETARY
West End Commercial Surveyors
A well educated, organised & experienced secretary is required to work with two Directors. Understanding of Word for Windows is essential and a knowledge of Access Database and Excel Spreadsheets an advantage.
The ideal candidate will be over 25 and a non-smoker. Salary £20,000 - £22,500.
Please reply with CV to Wilkinson Williams, 9 Park Place, London SW1A 1LP.

The Principals Group
We are a dynamic design consultancy currently looking for a Rec/Inr Sec. This is a young and friendly, but hardworking environment. The ideal candidate will be reliable, confident, able to cope under pressure and still have a sense of humour. Must have at least 1 yrs experience with knowledge of Apple Mac (Quark an adv).
Please send CV and covering letter to:
Georgina Tyrrell,
The Principals Group,
19 Phipp Street, London EC2A 4NP.

PARTNER'S SECRETARY
Salary £17,000
We are a small but well established firm of Chartered Surveyors who are expanding into the West End and require an experienced secretary with a good sense of humour to help get us going.
Fax your c.v. to 0171 220 7116 (attn: Bob West/Roger Taylor)
Knowledge of MS Word Essential.
No Agencies

PA/SEC TO DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
SALARY £18ish
A young dynamic Marketing Director is seeking a pro-active PA/Sec to assist him in all areas of running a busy Marketing Dept. Become involved with marketing projects and legal work, and personally provide full PA support. Applicants should have strong organizational flair, first-class communication skills, and enjoy the challenge of a varied workload. S/N essl.
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INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM, MAYFAIR
Senior Sec/P.A. required by well-known firm. Ability to work under pressure, strong organisational skills, fast accurate typing. Word for Windows experience essential. Shorthand an advantage. Salary commensurate with experience.
Please reply in writing to Miss A.M. Walsh, Salans Hertzfeld & Heilbronn, 183 Mount Street, London, W1Y 5HE or fax 0171 493 0843

INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT COMPANY
Requires bright, self-motivated secretary/admin assistant for small central London office.
Good computer skills mandatory.
Send CV to: HDP International Ltd., Dudley House, 169 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DD.

FULL TIME
Receptionist/ Telephonist
£12,000pa.
Required for International Trading Company, Baker Street W1.
Hours: Monday to Friday 9am - 5.30 pm.
Must be presentable, well spoken and able to type. Immediate start preferable.
For further information please contact Mrs Wood on 0171 618 3100.

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Private G.P. Kensington & Chelsea Medical experience essential, Nursing preferred
Salary £17,000 +
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Expanding company in new offices requires experienced, intelligent PA/Secretary to work for Chief Executive, Director and Company Secretary. Good shorthand, audio and wp skills (Excel/Lotus and Word). Senior level experience a necessity. Legal background /experience an advantage.
Ability to work under pressure and on own initiative. Flexible approach required in an extremely varied role. Opportunity to get fully involved.
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Gesucht wird in London/Mayfair auf Standenbasis Sekretär/in
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Gleiches gilt für Snow und Schreibmaschine sowie für buchhalterisches Denken.
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Personal Assistant to Chairman and group Directors.
Flexible, mature(35yrs+) with S/H and W4W experience required for top West End Design & Photographic Company.
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Small Kensington property company requires Junior secretary with Word/Excel must be ambitious, energetic and show initiative.
Please send CV and covering letter to: Cathy O'Donoghue, 23 Caveye Place, London SW10 9PT.

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City PA £25-30,000

The Managing Director of this prestigious City Institution is looking for a Personal Assistant with diplomacy, commercial sense and an ability to grasp a number of complex issues. This is a hectic and pressurised secretarial role which will require superior organisational skills in order to stay abreast of the workload and numerous responsibilities. The MD has to balance the demands of clients and colleagues and you will have to ensure that his time is used as effectively as possible. You will need to be well presented, with a good educational background and preferably with financial sector experience. Skills 100/60.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

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career moves

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Supporting the Head of Human Resources and her assistant for this renowned Plc, this is a corporate role for a mature PA with first class skills. There is scope for involvement and personal contribution within this role, and liaison with a number of diverse company subsidiaries. 80 wpm+ shorthand essential.

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This is an involved position for a good secretary who loves working with figures. Running budgets for various productions for each individual department of this top broadcasting house and maintaining contact with production co.'s, you will need to be a good co-ordinator, with confident liaison skills at all levels both internally and externally.

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C£26,000

Working in a fast-paced sales environment, this is a superb opportunity for a highly self-motivated, organised and diplomatic office or facilities manager. Monitoring and standardising various procedures, this position requires a business-minded and analytical person who has excellent communication skills and is able to present reports and arguments in a professional manner. This is a pivotal role providing much needed communication links between various departments within this international organisation, and therefore the ability to play along with a strong team is essential. Owning to the system-oriented environment, excellent IT literacy is essential. Previous experience in sales and office management would be an advantage.

Please call Caroline Foote or Kerry Ballard.

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A fantastic opportunity to work with a world-renowned film and broadcasting company co-ordinating publicity tours for film and TV programmes, product management, programme launches and press conferences. Previous relevant experience in publicity, press, product management or event organising preferably in TV/Film environment preferred. Previous international liaison experience essential.

Please call Clare Fazackerley.

PA IN RETAIL OPERATIONS
c£17,000

Involved and varied PA role which can be expanded and diversified to suit your needs! This operations-based position will have you involved in various office management and planning projects and will put your communication and liaison skills to the test. Working within a large but team-oriented company, this position will keep you on your toes! Shorthand/speed writing of 75+ wpm and good Excel skills essential.

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SHOPPERS PARADISE
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£20-22k + pens + bonus

Work with some of the top names in the world of luxury shopping as PA to the MD of one of, based just 5 mins from the tube, who needs a true, dedicated person with experience in the 25+ region, 5/6+ on keyboard skills. You'll work on a one-to-one basis and totally manage this very busy individual who depends on your loyalty and ability to prioritise. You must have good Powerpoint and some Excel knowledge and be 25yrs+. If you're articulate and well-motivated, don't shop around just call now.

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Telephone: 0171 734 7311 Facsimile: 0171 734 5260

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up to £17K + banking pkg (inc mortgage subsidy)

There is no HR experience needed to get this role of Personnel Administrator in the Personnel and Training Dept of one of the major banking organisations based in the City. However, you must have a 50 typing and be numerate and ready to work because there is much you can do! The role involves dealing with all of people issues, from recruitment to training and development to be an excellent communicator. If you're currently in your mid-20's and have 2 years experience in a busy environment, then this is your chance to take the next step in your career in Personnel.

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£20k + pens, STL, dress allowance, fab discounts

Highly successful fashion retailer is looking to employ a smart, personable, organised PA/Secretary to two senior Directors in their corporate headquarters. They are looking for an excellent all round person to manage them on a daily basis and to liaise with their contacts. Presently would be a quiet role but ideally You must be a quick learner and have excellent skills (50/60 wpm typing, Word, Excel, Powerpoint) as you will be working on a variety of projects at any one time. If you are a professional Secretary, immaculately presented and have the confidence to work in a demanding role, then call us now.

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up to £16k + 27 days hols + amazing bens

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£23-25k + STL + 2 bonuses a yr

Come and work for one of the best - if you have what it takes! This Senior Partner of one of the country's most impressive law firms needs a Senior Secretary with approx 5 yrs litigation experience to assist him. He's tough but a great boss and you'll be supported by a friendly team + a junior out to help! He also has responsibility for marketing aspects of the firm so there's scope for involvement there too. If you have 60 typing, an A' Level education and you're articulate and fiercely bright - to keep up with him, call now!

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7311 Facsimile: 0171 734 5260

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"Reach for the Stars"
up to £25k + bens

Tired of a truly amazing chance to take charge of an international start up company. Working in the vibrant world of the leisure and entertainment industry, this entrepreneur needs an incredibly efficient, love-headed PA to assist with company development and expansion. From liaising with the corporate world offices and supporting the MD to recruiting staff, this multi-talented role demands supreme organisation, enthusiasm and commitment. If you are 25-35yrs old with excellent secretarial skills (60 wpm, 60 typing) with sound business experience, this awesome role is your road to success.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7311 Facsimile: 0171 734 5260

HOBstones

Surges Ahead in the Opinion Polls

Perm

Banking Bonanza

Do you want to work for a large successful Investment Bank in a lively environment where your *initiative and enthusiasm counts*?

The varied roles will include managing diaries, creating travel itineraries, monitoring expenses, client liaison, presentations and much much more.

Skills required are: GCSE/O Level Maths & English, Windows knowledge, 2 years secretarial experience, confident and professional outlook.

Positions To Go For:

Admin Sec	Personnel Operations	£19k
Jnr S/hand	Banking	£20k
Team Sec	Capital Markets	£20k
PA/Sec	Emerging Markets	£25k
Admin Sec	Capital Markets	£20k
French Sec	Corporate Finance	£19k
PT/Sec	Investment Mgt	£18k
Admin Sec	Equity Research	£19k
Junior Sec	Marketing	£14k

Please call Sara, Nicky or Helena.
City 0171 550 7000

Temp

Temps Get The Vote! To £10 per hour.

As the Campaigning heats up, don't be slow to join the leading party and be a winner this Summer. We offer top rates, an efficient and friendly service, together with exciting and busy bookings in top companies around central London.

If you meet the checklist below, call us now!

50 wpm typing	☒
Good Windows exp.	☒
Flexibility	☒
Professional attitude	☒
Smart presentation	☒

West End 0171 437 6032.
Alexa, Liz or Holly.

City 0171 550 7000.
Gillian or Victoria.

RECRUITMENT

Legal

International Law Firm EC2 £23,000 package

Superb opportunity to join a law firm recognised as one of London's Top 5, situated in the heart of the City.

There are a variety of positions currently available mainly due to staff promotions. They are looking to recruit experienced legal secretaries who are 'O' Level educated and looking for a varied and interesting position within a forward thinking, dynamic firm.

For information regarding specific positions, please telephone Kim Harris.

Legal Float Secretaries - Where Are You? Central London £22,000

We currently have a number of positions available for secretaries interested in float positions to work for firms all over London. If you have 3 years legal experience, 65 wpm typing and good wp skills, please call us now.

For further information, please call Angela d'Agostino.
City 0171 550 7000

FINANCE + PR
£22,000

A dual role working with the Corporate Communications Director which incorporates PR & investor relations and also assisting the Director of Finance - not a lot of figure work. The company is small and a success story. We need a PA who is confident, has Director level experience & who is comfortable dealing with press & senior figures in the City. Powerpoint needed. Age 25-35

0171 493 2888
HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

CRUISE THE MED
ASST. SHIPS PURSER
£EX. TAX FREE

The Cruise Director of prestigious 1st liner requires an asst purser to join a super young team. Keyboard skills + either hotel/front line reception/chalet exp. essential. Must be outgoing & organised fabulous opp. Age 23-32. Immediate start to join ship in both Italy. 5 month contract.

Call Ventura Plus Personnel
0171 493 5122

PA/BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR
TO £20,000

A top profile company based in Victoria is seeking a professional, polished PA, age 23-30, with fluent French and rusty shorthand to assist a very busy Director. The position is varied and includes client contact, arranging travel itineraries, diary management and the usual secretarial duties. This is a role which is challenging, exciting and totally fulfilling. 55 wpm typing and W4W essential. Please call Gwen or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 fax: 0171 491 2887

POWERPOINT WHIZZ
£20,000 + GREAT PERKS
+ 5 WEEKS HOLS

Blue Chip Company based in W1 requires a highly computer literate Secretary, 25-40, to join young, friendly team handling International affairs. Lots of presentation work, total involvement. Fast audio and copy typing. You should have a flexible approach and excellent presentation, both self and work!. A1 telephone manner, able to prioritise, pro-active and good sense of humour. Please call Elaine or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

COMPUTER ADMIN
c£23000 + PACKAGE W.1

Administrator par excellence? International executive search company is offering a challenging role to a 'lynchpin' who'll organise the vital IT function at their HQ. Your duties will include handling internal IT queries from all European offices, organising in-house training courses and programmer's timetable. Essential: excellent communication skills, computer literacy, sound commercial background + 60 wpm. Age 25+.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD
£2000 S.E.15

We need another great organiser here too. Operations Director of a luxury food importer needs a secretary who'll use bags of initiative, plan ahead and think things through. A high calibre secretary is essential as your boss is frequently abroad - necessitating complicated travel plans - so he needs first class back-up at base. Fast typing & computer literacy essential.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779
JIGSAW RECRUITMENT

EXECUTIVE SEARCH
NEW MALDEN
TO £24000

High energy PA is sought by delightful Bond Trader 'head hunters'. From lovely offices with rolling country views, you'll liase with City hot-shots, become involved in market research, implement and maintain systems and organise the hi-tec office. Vital: mature, confident, computer literate prioritiser with some book-keeping experience.

PROPERTY ADVISORS
C £21000 W.1

Seriously successful and down-to-earth chartered surveyors need organising. Their business is expanding and they need a professional PA who can mastermind the office move, oversee equipment purchase, personnel matters and who has ideas for streamlining systems. You'll be a capable all-rounder who's at ease with important clients and the audio machine! Age 24+.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779
JIGSAW RECRUITMENT

Tempted to Temp?

- Do you possess excellent skills (100/60 wpm). Ideally Windows 95, including Excel and PowerPoint or Freelance.
- Do you enjoy a variety of short and long term assignments within leading companies?
- Do you expect highest rates of pay and a professional service?

If so you should be talking to us.

0171 629 9323
DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

£25,000

This famous retail group require a high calibre PA to support the M.D. and Operations Director. You have strong organisational and communication skills, like using your initiative and want lots of involvement. Great offices in West End + Excellent Bens.

Call 0171 493 7001.

SECRETARIES PLUS

CHAIRMAN'S P.A.
CITY £25K + Good Bens

Charming, erudite Chairman, with a vast remit, seeks a first division P.A. to assist him. Exemplary secretarial skills taken as read (shorthand 90/100) you will thrive in a sometimes highly pressurised role where your strong administrative skills will be put to the test. Your ability to prioritise whilst several projects run simultaneously, is vital.

As part of a Major City Organisation you will possess the poise and confidence to liaise with high profile clients and Key Players within the Company. This is a strictly 1-1 format in a busy but rewarding role.

Tel. JOSEPHINE MORRISON on 01233 850700 to 9.00 p.m. Fax 01233 850002

Interviews to take place at our offices in Harley St. W.1. where evening appointments are available, or in the City. (REC CONS).

Bucks / Oxon
Executive Secretary / PA

If you live in the Buckinghamshire or Oxfordshire area and want to work closer to home this might well be the opportunity you've been waiting for. Start-up situation, biotechnology company. You will have responsibility for the initial purchasing of all office fixtures and fittings plus word processors / computers and also hiring of support staff. You will be an enthusiastic and self-sufficient support to the Chief Executive assisting him in every aspect of his working life, the ability to forward plan and remain one step ahead is crucial. This is an excellent chance to be in at the beginning and should provide a great deal of satisfaction for a competent and experienced individual. An excellent salary is offered commensurate with ability and experience. Computer skills and shorthand essential.

Susan Doughty Recruitment
39A Curzon Street London W1Y 7RF
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7922

The top *Secretarial* assignments with Manpower

Start work today in one of our busy and challenging secretarial assignments. We can offer regular work with excellent pay rates, and a full benefits package, which includes Bank Holiday pay, with cross training on the latest packages and a friendly and professional service.

Call now on 0171 353 7684.

MANPOWER

PA in PR?
c£14,000 p.a.

As a go-ahead, supportive, well educated 2nd jobber PA Sec + WP (early 20's) you will enjoy working with this small, friendly PR Co. Looking after a Senior Exec. you will be involved in everything and learn about PR!

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Word Processing Manager
£27K plus benefits

Our client, a west end legal firm are seeking a confident, self-motivated WP Manager. This is a hands-on role providing day to day management of a team of operators. You will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring work as well as organising the high level of admin involved in running a large department. The team will rely on you for guidance and support, including some typing when necessary. The *ideal candidate should have had* some previous management experience and possess the essential qualities for a working team leader, plus fast accurate typing.

TEMP APPLICATIONS WELCOME.

CHAIRMAN'S P.A.
CITY £25K + Good Bens

Charming, erudite Chairman, with a vast remit, seeks a first division P.A. to assist him. Exemplary secretarial skills taken as read (shorthand 90/100) you will thrive in a sometimes highly pressurised role where your strong administrative skills will be put to the test. Your ability to prioritise whilst several projects run simultaneously, is vital.

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Interviews to take place at our offices in Harley St. W.1. where evening appointments are available, or in the City. (REC CONS).

COBY PHILIPS
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHAIRMAN'S PA £22K -

Chairman of a leading Advertising Agency in W.1. requires a well organised & efficient 'Right-hand Person'! If you are looking for a challenging role, are pro-active & unflappable with min 60wpm, SH or Speedwriting please call us for further details.

0171 287 6116 or fax your CV on 0171 287 6556.

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£24,000 - TELEVISION

An exciting opportunity to work at the heartbeat of arguably the most successful television company of the decade. Working at the nub of the business as PA to 2 key players the role will encompass much people contact and requires a forward thinker with an eye for detail and a natural aptitude for responsibility. Excellent keyboard skills on Word for Windows and Powerpoint. Age 25 - 38

3 Ganton Street, London W1V 1LJ
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

It's vital to Choose a career with real opportunities

PA/Secretary to Head of Communications
£18-23k AAE + paid o/t & exc. bens.

An excellent opportunity has arisen within this prestigious Global company for a top PA who enjoys variety and involvement. Duties include lots of organising, especially social events and extensive travel and diary management. The environment is professional but exciting and hectic, the standards are high 5 GCSE's and a typing qualification has the rewards are excellent:- career development, BUPA, PRP, paid overtime, medical, pension, subsidised restaurant, IFSTL, health club.

[illegible]

BARAUD INTERNATIONAL
Cayman Islands, British West Indies
URGENTLY SEEKING
* Legal/Exec Secretaries * Fund Administrators
* Recruitment Coordinator * Accountants
* RSA Certified Trainer
Fax CV to 345-945-1782

£14,000 & Bens Covent Garden

An ideal opening for a college leaver or junior secretary ready to consolidate their skills. *Working within the MD's offices, you will be* assisting the senior secretary to look after a team of busy executives. This will include using your WP skills, arranging appointments, liaising at a senior level & having the confidence to take messages for the MD in his PA's absence. 'A' levels & secretarial course preferred, 50+ typing.

0171-831-1220

RECRUITMENT COMPANY
5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AR

c£25,000 Personal Secretary

Wealthy international businessman needs a personal secretary/assistant to organise him. This is a high profile, multi-faceted role in which you will be relied on to understand & anticipate your boss's varied needs, take control of the day-to-day running of his office & liaise at the highest levels on his behalf. You will be ultra professional, discreet & diplomatic & enjoy the challenge of coping on your own in a very demanding environment where no two days are the same. 50 typing.

0171-831-1220

RECRUITMENT COMPANY
5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AR

Marketing Assistant/PA
c£17,000 p.a

For a bright, versatile early/mid 20's PA Sec + WP this mix of office management and marketing will be perfect. Lots of involvement to include liaising with media and writing press releases. The sky's the *limit for a go-ahead person!*

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Executive Assistant
c£18,000 p.a

This exciting Executive Search consultancy needs a motivated assistant to work for 2 Senior Partners. You will be involved in all aspects of search and selection as well as marketing. You need: min typing 40wpm, initiative and drive to succeed in this pro-active, ambitious environment.

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONAL ASSISTANT upto £24,000

Do you like working in a busy environment making sure that your boss *arrives at all his meetings* prepared. Managing Diaries, preparing presentations, providing full secretarial support. This is a very rewarding job working for an excellent company.

..please call Caroline on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
16 Lansdowne Row,
Berkeley Sq., London W1X 7LN

Adecco Elite

HIGH PROFILE CAREER SECRETARIES
£18,000 - £22,000 + +

Do you want real involvement and responsibility?

Dynamic and demanding boss is seeking a true PA to provide full admin and secretarial support. Liaising at very senior levels you must have a proactive approach, excellent W4W, copy and audio, be highly organised and flexible.

This position is high profile & will involve complex diary & travel arrangements. Can you meet the challenge? bens include PAID Overtime, STY, Pensions, Lunch etc. *Call Lorraine.*

Tel: 0171 287 0220
Portman Recruitment
181 Oxford Street, W1R 1TA
Fax: 0171 287 1060

PORTMAN
west end 0171 • 287 0220

City Fund Managers
Marketing Sec 21K

Young secretary looking for pace, pressure & the chance to establish a career in one of the City's most exciting organisations. Energetic and motivated with initiative to support a friendly, busy team. You will be encouraged to take on responsibility and should have excellent communication skills - lots of client liaison. Good education and skills required plus solid work history.

Call Cross Selection: 0171 377 5500 Fax: 0171 377 5599

CROSS SELECTION

هكذا من الاصل

CREME DE LA CREME

DESIGN
£19,000

Join this highly successful international design led furniture company as PA to the MD which will involve you in PR, marketing activities, exhibitions and organising and co-ordinating VIP visits. Windows 95. 50wpm typing, shorthand useful.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TRUE PA
£25,000

Based in Mayfair this 1:1 role will involve the total running of this busy chief executive's personal and business lives. Manage bank accounts, the country home (including organising shoots). Totally autonomous position, 55wpm typing / 90wpm shorthand. Age 28 - 40.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TELEVISION
£24,000

This media conglomerate needs a professional energetic PA who enjoys liaising and negotiating at senior level. Located south of the river, this role will suit a self-starter with good shorthand and a flexible attitude. 55wpm typing, 90wpm shorthand, Windows literate.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA TO CHAIRMAN
£24,000

Of graduate calibre, your role will be to offer full support to the chairman of this manufacturing company based in North London. In addition to secretarial duties you will also be co-ordinating a complicated diary, fielding calls and acting in his absence. Powerpoint 80 / 50wpm.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PARTNERS IN LAW
£20,000

Involvement and interest is offered by two partners in the London office of an American law firm. As their PA, you will know what is going on and discuss matters with clients. Happy with the variety of a smaller office and legal experience of interest only.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RESEARCH ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

to £30,000 + Banking Bens

An excellent opportunity to get involved with co-ordinating publications, dealing with client enquiries and preparing presentations. The role is to work for a dynamic team within Fixed Income within a leading Investment Bank and will require advanced MS Office experience and relevant banking experience.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

SECRETARY/ROADSHOW ORGANISER

to £25,000 + Bonus

An exciting opportunity to work for a thriving Equity team. Main duties are arranging travel, corporate hospitality, organising roadshows and extensive client contact as well as providing secretarial support. An outgoing person able to work in a fast-paced environment required. Financial background essential.

Please contact Margaret Sorohan.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

POLISHED RECEPTIONIST

to £21,000 + MS + Bens

A once in a lifetime opportunity! This high profile Banking Organisation is urgently seeking a professional Receptionist with keyboard skills. The ideal candidate will be aged 25-40 with experience working within a financial environment. Duties will include greeting clients and scheduling appointments.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

Secure Your Future
and Raise Your Capital

Crone Corkill is currently looking for temporary secretaries with trading floor and or investment banking experience. If you have at least 55wpm typing, Word, Excel and preferably Powerpoint you will be able to work in long term and short term assignments in two of the West Ends finest financial institutions. In return for your ability to thrive on pressure, your professionalism and love of a busy environment you will get 9.50 ph, often 14.25 for overtime, subsidised restaurants and experience at the cutting edge of high finance. Please call us now to secure your future in some of the best and most rewarding temporary assignments around. 0171 434 4512.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
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Powerpoint and Freelance Temps
up to £10 per hour

Design your own future as a member of Crone Corkill's elite temporary team. If you are a flexible Temp with good secretarial skills, 60wpm typing along with excellent Powerpoint and/or Freelance you could soon be earning up to £10 per hour (often £15 per hour for overtime) by working in assignments with our extensive client base - many of them blue chip companies. Our clients' requirements are many and varied and, whatever your reason for temping, we're sure to have something that's right for you. Need another reason to call? As a Crone Corkill temp you can be earning AIR MILES while you work. Call the West End Temp Team NOW on 0171 434 4512 to find out more.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

Hays Banking Secretarial
SECRETARIAL OPEN DAY

A WIDE VARIETY OF CITY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU ONLY THROUGH HAYS BANKING SECRETARIAL

Long and short term assignments and temp to permanent opportunities are available in the following skill areas:

- Senior PA's
- Shorthand Secretaries
- Switchboard Operators
- Corporate Finance Secretaries
- Trade Floor Secretaries
- Powerpoint Production Managers
- Team Secretaries
- Audio Typists
- Data Inputters
- Bi-Lingual Receptionists (French, Italian, Spanish, German)
- HR Assistants

OUR RATES OF PAY ARE EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE

We are the market leaders in providing the City with secretarial staff. We are looking for candidates with experience in any of the above to introduce to our clients; Blue Chip Investment Banks, Integrated Securities Houses and Fund Managers, including institutions where we exclusively manage their temporary and contract vacancies on site.
If you are looking for a fresh start to your career for Summer '97, please come to our Secretarial Open Day on Thursday 17th April.

From 8.00am–8.00pm.

At: 41–42 London Wall, EC2M 5TB

If you are unable to attend, please call us to arrange an alternative appointment on:
0171 638 7003

41-42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB
TEL: 0171 638 7003. FAX: 0171 628 5057

TEMP IN BANKING

Are you are a Secretary/PA with experience in finance, or would like work in this highly lucrative industry, then shouldn't you be working for a leading City Consultancy?

RATES: to £12.50 per hour

MS Word, Excel & Powerpoint essential
60 wpm+, shorthand advantageous
Long term and Temp to Permanent assignments
Assignments in the City, Docklands & West End
Holiday Pay and Xmas Bonus

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd. is recommended by The City Personnel Group whose membership list includes 300 banks and financial institutions in London.

Please contact Dezna Berry.

Jonathan Wren & Co. Ltd
No.1 New Street,
London EC2M 4TP

Tel 0171 623 1266
Fax 0171 626 5259
CompuServe 100446, 1551
Reference JWS092

Aldrich & Company

TRADING FLOOR
£24K + Superb Pkg c£30K!
To be the interface between Trading & Research; a key role in a very hectic environment for a truly professional and pro-active experienced PA with German & French - and banking experience. Huge potential for the ambitious! Call **Emily Aldrich.**

EXECUTIVE ASST
£24,000 + Great Bens
A true right-hand role supporting a Snr Director. Fantastic opportunity with real potential, total involvement in the running of the co. and masses of admin. Based close to Victoria Station in fabulous offices. Ring **Alex Gaze** for an immediate interview.

PA - PERSONNEL (EC2)
£24,000 Package
1-1 to the head of the division: providing full secretarial support; dealing with all on-going projects. The PM is an excellent delegator who wants a true right hand. Bright, down to earth with superb communication skills. Call **Sarah Turnbull.**

PA - HIGH PROFILE
£22,000 + Bank Bens
Based in fabulous offices near Liverpool St. Station, EC2. A bright secretary with exc organisational skills is required to support a young team of 3. Amazing benefits and a great working atmosphere - supporting a team who delegate and want you to be involved. Call **Emily Aldrich.**

MARKETING SEC
£18,000 + Exc Bens
An exciting role in the European Marketing Division of a professional, dynamic Fund Management company in Covent Garden. Languages would be a plus. If you have strong admin skills and good systems please call **Alex Gaze** to organise an immediate interview.

TEMP IN THE CITY
Top rates Paid
We have immediate and on-going bookings to be filled within the major international investment banks in London. If you have strong secretarial skills and up-to-date packages, (cross training possible). call **Kim St. John.**

Tel: 0171 588 8999 **Fax: 0171 588 8998**
CITY RECRUITMENT

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT/SEC — c£22,000+Bens
An all encompassing role that will allow you to demonstrate your versatility in a position that offers variety requiring admin and secretarial support. Primarily working for a Senior Partner plus two Assistants within a prestigious Management Consultancy your duties will include liaising with clients, extensive diary management inc. meetings, conferences, travel, etc. Contact MICHELLE SAYERS

Pertemps City Network

BANKING SEC WITH SHORTHAND — c£20,000+Bens
A full and varied shorthand secretarial role supporting the Head of Finance within a prestigious Intl Merchant Bank. Duties will include diaries, travel, meetings, expenses, etc. and will require strong organisational skills, a pro-active approach and the ability to work as part of a team. Contact GILLIAN THOMPSON

JUNIOR SH SEC - BANKING — c£16,500+Package+Bens
Charming Director within Investment Bank requires either 2nd jobber or top calibre college leaver with excellent secretarial skills and organisational ability to provide full secretarial support to include extensive travel arrangements, diaries and itineraries. Contact MICHELLE SAYERS

HIGH FLYING TEAM PLAYER — c£17,000+Bens
A keen, energetic, conscientious secretary is urgently needed to work for a dynamic team within the Financial Services area of Intl Management Consultants. This is a fast moving progressive division that will require sound secretarial/admin exp and a pro-active approach. Contact GILLIAN THOMPSON

Pertemps City Network,
Plantation House, 31-35 Fenchurch St, London, EC3M 3DX
Tel: 0171 621 1304 Fax: 0171 626 6671

Office Manager

Salary – £20,000

High profile marketing company requires an experienced and adaptable Office Manager who will also be PA to the Managing Director. A mature, presentable candidate with the personality to work in this team orientated company is sought. Excellent Excel and W4W skills, 50WPM, audio skills and the ability to juggle tasks essential.

REED
For Executive Secretarial positions in The West End, Tel: 0171 224 2820
For over 1,000 jobs, visit http://www.reed.co.uk

Executive Secretary

Salary – c£20,000

Managing Director of a shipping company requires an Executive Secretary with good all round secretarial skills and experience at a senior level. W4W and Lotus 123 skills essential, shorthand desirable. Role includes arranging meetings, travel, accommodation and full diary management. Excellent opportunity within very friendly company.

REED
For Executive Secretarial positions in The City, Tel: 0171 638 1866
For over 1,000 jobs, visit http://www.reed.co.uk

Recruitment Manager

Wimbledon — £30,000+ to start

In less than two years of taking the helm of our Wimbledon branch Julia Vassie has forged significant inroads into the local business community – helping to establish Office Angels as one of the leading recruitment consultancies in the area, currently working with over 400 customers.

1997 has brought promotion & consequently a new role for Julia, opening up a whole new window of opportunity for a talented manager. The person who fills Julia's shoes will need be special. Confident, articulate, with a warmth of personality, you'll need to possess acute business skills – gained in either a sales or service-focused environment – and have proven success in leading and inspiring a team of ambitious individuals.

Our company values integrity and initiative very highly. If these qualities are your own and you'd like to learn more, please apply in writing, enclosing your career summary to: JOY ADAMS, Regional Manager, Office Angels Ltd, 3 Shortlands, Hammersmith, London W6 8RR.

Office Angels
Recruitment Consultants

PA to MD City
to £23,000

Proactive and highly efficient PA required to support this busy City executive. In addition to providing full secretarial support you will liaise extensively with clients and keep your boss briefed on internal affairs. Coming from a financial background you should have a mature and professional approach. Standard Hours: 9-6. Skills: 60/W4W/Audio. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Chief Executive - Design
£25,000+

Prestigious design company looking for a senior PA to work for the Chief Executive of this leading edge company. Amongst your many responsibilities will be internal and external PR, event organising and training. To enable you to meet the challenge of these multiple and changing priorities you must be extremely polished and enthusiastic with lots of initiative. Experience within a blue chip company would be preferable, as are shorthand and Microsoft Office.

Please call Caroline Galan on 0171 437 6032.

HOBSTONES RECRUITMENT

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PA SECRETARY
c £18,000

Our Client, a leading name in the private health sector, is looking for a professional PA interested in the EU.

Good secretarial skills and PC literacy are required and a Diplomatic or similar background would be ideal. A knowledge of European languages would be an advantage. Five day week - flexible hours available.

For more information about this position please call Caroline Drew on 0171 589 1866
St James's Consultancy

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
For fun, lively recruitment consultancy in SW London. Suit 22+ with office experience and good telephone manner. Administration skills and interest in computers (prof apple mac's) essential. This is a varied role in a busy, progressive office. Please call Annie on 0171 926 6464

FIRST CREME

TRAINEE POSITION
in a top flight Estate Agent based in Central London. A Director requires a highly motivated individual ideally aged between 20-23yrs who wishes to enter the world of Central London Property. Outstanding training given, must live in London and hold current driving licence. Salary £12k + car.

Tel 0171 873 2848.

World of Interiors! £13,000
1st/2nd jobber with some office skills and bright personality req'd for expanding Design Co. in SW3. Your day will involve dealing with Interior Designers (and their clients), typing, taking calls, invoicing etc - all in a busy but friendly office! 40wpm.

Anderson Hearn
0171 824 8821
Rec Cons

PR Team Assistants c.£15K

SOUTH MOLTON APPOINTMENTS

We have a variety of challenging positions in top 20 agencies covering Food & Drink, Healthcare and Financial PR for people with 50wpm and a year's experience. Enthusiastic quick learners only!

Advertising PA (15K) and Ad. Assistant (£17K)

Two outstanding agencies with very high profile clients seek exceptional individuals to contribute to their respective teams' success. A year's secretarial exp. needed for the first and three years team/admin for the second.

Contact: Amanda Johnson at 38, South Molton Street, London, W1Y 1HA
Tel: 0171 495 8668 or Fax: 0171 499 8344

SOUTH MOLTON APPOINTMENTS

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CREME DE LA CREME

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 42 FOR MORE SECRETARIAL VACANCIES



Pessoa, on Gran Geste, checks the fence is intact during his 1965 Derby success

Showjumping's falling popularity threatens Hickstead with extinction

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

There are certain place-names, of obscure suburbs, unimportant villages, dingy areas of towns, that are rich with meaning in national life. Wembley, Wimbledon, Twickenham, Aintree, Henley, Badminton, Silverstone.

These names have a magical ring. "Headingley," I once said to a Leeds taxi driver. "Whereabouts in Headingley?" What a question — but to him, Headingley was a place. To me and to the world, it is cricket.

So let us turn our attention to a small village in Sussex, just off the A23 and not far from Burgess Hill on the Brighton line. For some people, it is a place you pass on the way to Brighton: for others, it is the ultimate destination: Wembley, Henley, Jerusalem, Mecca.

The name of the place is Hickstead, and it is showjumping's ultimate point of arrival. And, strapped for cash and hammered by the departure of its sponsor, Silk Cut, Hickstead showground is threatened with closure. Hickstead cannot breathe any more.

Closure would be the flattening of the twin towers, the ploughing-up of Centre Court, the damming of the River Thames at Temple Island. The Nations Cup event at the end of May must now be switched to the Royal Windsor Horse Show; Hickstead's two other international shows are also under threat. A small chunk of national life is likely to disappear.

Hickstead had always been a great and stress-free day out for families. It has also provided endless excellent sport. One of the great sporting stories of the previous year was the performance of Nelson Pessoa in the Hickstead Derby, which is showjumping's most terrifying event.

Pessoa, after winning the team bronze medal at the Olympic Games as coach of the Brazil team, came to Hickstead as a competitor and, with his horse, Vivaldi, won it. Pessoa was 60, a man for four seasons if ever there was one. It was his third victory in the event and it came 33 years after the first. He had suffered a heart attack the previous year.

It was an extraordinary and delightful story, and one which inevitably touched the hearts of the horse-loving Brits. Nothing like a good horse story. Thus Phil Sharp becomes the latest great British hero: The Lad Who Stayed Behind. Sharp is the stable lad who looked after the Grand National horse, Suny Bay. He refused to evacuate when the IRA warning came. Suny Bay finished second. Let us hope that Sharp had the presence of mind to back him each-way.

Horses touch British hearts so it would be a strange thing if the nation were to allow one of the great horsey places to disappear. But that seems the most likely scenario. The Grand National course was for years threatened with disaster, every year just about to be sold as a housing estate, but there was so much fuss that, in the end, it was "saved for the nation". Hickstead seems likely to go quietly. Strange, because showjumping is still an archetypal part of British life.

Now I am always suspicious of golden-agers: cricket were better when I were a lad, footballers did not spit, runners did not take drugs, and God smiled upon his sporting work every day. But the trouble with showjumping is that it really did have a golden age.

It was in the Sixties, and it revolved around the soap opera of known equestrian and equine stars: a pantheon of rivalries. Annelie-Drummond-Hay, Harvey Smith, David Broome, Marion Coates, Merely A Monarch, Stroller, Vibart. Today's stars are not household names, even in their own households.

But the skill of the riders, the athleticism of the horses and the preparation of both have improved beyond measure. The sport is ten times more difficult now, because the fences are utterly unforgiving. Lightweight poles, and the shallow cups on which they rest, mean that it is almost impossible to hit a fence and get away with it.

And yet the sport has lost its grip on prime-time television. With that loss go sponsors, money, public interest. The sport has gone from mainstream to backwater: and somehow managed that in a nation of horse-lovers. Hickstead looks likely to be a major casualty.

I was recently a member of a working party to advise the British Show Jumping Association on what we thought had gone wrong — and how it might be put right. I hope some of our solutions are on the right track, and will help to get the sport back into its natural place as part of the consciousness of a horsey nation.

I have trashed many a showjumping course myself, and know the joy of the all-or-nothing — generally nothing in my case — jump-off in which you chuck your heart over a fence and ask the horse to please go and catch it. It is a joy the whole nation knows vicariously.

We all know where it all went wrong — when they started calling horses Sanyo Technology, and thereby trashed not the course, but the spectator's faith in the bond between horse and rider. But how can we put Humpty Dumpty together again? All the queen's horses haven't managed it so far, and the palace of Hickstead looks ripe for Tesco's.



Thirty-one years later Vivaldi carried the popular Brazilian to his third win

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هكذا من الاصل

RACING: BBC DELIGHTED AS 12 MILLION WATCH RESCHEDULED EVENT

Monday Grand National draws bumper audience

BY OUR RACING STAFF

THE BBC yesterday revealed that a "massive" audience of nearly 12 million watched its live coverage of the rearranged Martell Grand National. There had been fears that the race would lose its attraction after being forced to switch to a 5pm slot on Monday because of Saturday's security alert.

However, the early indications from the British Audience Research Board are that nearly 12 million tuned into the BBC1 coverage. That beats last year's figure of 11.2 million and makes the National the most-watched sports event on television this year.

Brian Barwick, head of televised sport at the BBC, said: "This is a massive figure for a Grand National rescheduled and restaged at such short notice. It underlines the importance of the event to the British viewing public, and we are delighted to have been able to bring the drama of this great event to the screen."

Charles Barnett, the clerk of the course at Aintree, said: "We are thrilled with the news of these truly exceptional BBC figures. They illustrate the support the Martell Grand National receives from the public, despite the race being restaged under such difficult circumstances."

Meanwhile, the race's winner, Lord Gyllene, is unlikely to run again this season. Although entered for the Stakis Casinos Scottish Grand National at Ayr, the nine-year-old is more likely to be rested until next season, when the Grand National will again be his objective.

The trainer of Lord Gyllene, Steve Brookshaw, said: "He's walking around and very happy with himself. I would think that will be it for the season. He was entered for the Scottish National, but that was only a contingency plan."

Nonetheless, racegoers will have the chance to see Lord Gyllene next month. His owner, Stan Clarke, explained: "Lord Gyllene will parade at Uttoxeter on May 3. He's come out of the race fresh and sound, but he won't run again this term."

Seven Towers, the only horse to have beaten Lord Gyllene this year, is also unlikely to run again this season. His trainer, Mary Reveley, did not regret bypassing the National with her charge. "The National is the National and the winner jumped from fence to fence," she said. "It is a different course to everywhere else and you can never guess what might have happened if our horse had run — you'd have thought that Go Ballistic would beat Lord Gyllene on a park course, but he was pulled up.

"It is getting too dry for him now. Our gallops are becoming firm and everything will be too fast for him. He is a soft-ground horse and owes us nothing."

John O'Shea put Go Ballistic's poor display at Aintree down to the effects of a hard season. The eight-year-old, sent off the 7-1 favourite, was always behind and eventually was pulled up at the second-last fence.

Go Ballistic, close to the top of the National betting since his fourth in last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup, was having his seventh race of the season.

"He had been very consistent previously and yesterday was a typical end-of-season performance," O'Shea said. "It was just one race too many and he definitely won't run again this season. He was never going well and broke a blood vessel, though it's hard to say when. The only thing he did do was jump well."

The National runner-up, Suny Bay, may try to go one better in another big staying chase before the end of the season. The Charlie Brooks-trained gelding, who was beaten 25 lengths, holds engagements this month in the Scottish National and the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown. Brooks's assistant, Ed James, said: "It all depends on the ground and how he comes out of the National."

☐ Rhydian Morgan-Jones was yesterday elected to the Industry Committee of the British Horseracing Board (BHB) to succeed Lord Swaythling as a BHB director and Industry Member for a term of four years with effect from June 7.



Steve Brookshaw poses with the Grand National winner, Lord Gyllene, back at his Shrewsbury yard yesterday

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.10 Out Like Magic	3.40 Handsome Ridge
2.40 Watch Me Go	4.10 Augustan
3.10 Maiteamia	4.40 Fooled You
	5.10 Epic Stand

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 **HANDSOME RIDGE.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Watch Me Go. 3.40 **HANDSOME RIDGE** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND SPA WELTER MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,203: 5f) (14 runners)

101	(1)		BURNDEN DAYS (C Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 9-0	S Webster	–
102	(14)		BURNT YATES (J Bray) M W Easterby 9-0	G Parkin (5)	–
103	(8)		DIAMOND STEVE (Diamond Racing) P Evans 9-0	R Lappin	–
104	(12)		DURHAM FLYER (C Stevens) T Easterby 9-0	M Birch	–
105	(3)	9	FIVE OF SPADES 20 (B Cassidy) D Nicholls 9-0	Alex Greaves	–
106	(10)		HAPPY DAYS (J Barrett) D Moffatt 9-0	Darren Moffatt (3)	–
107	(13)	4	LAST KNIGHT 15 (W Ponsonby) M Channon 9-0	P P Murphy (5)	84
108	(2)	0	PRINCE NICHOLAS 20 (Audrey Stud) K Hogg 9-0	D McKeown	–
109	(11)		QUIZ MASTER (Mrs R Heaton) E Weymes 9-0	K Fallon	–
110	(7)		VET'S DECEIT (R Thompson) R Thompson 9-0	T Williams	–
111	(9)	53	INCHALONG 4 (Nortnegate Lodge) M Brittain 8-9	G Bardwell	71
112	(4)		LAUREL PLEASURE (Laurel Leisure) J Berry 8-9	T E Duncan (5)	–
113	(5)	4	OUT LIKE MAGIC 20 (Mrs E Dawson) P Evans 8-9	J F Egan	89
114	(6)		PENNILESS (Corruthon Ltd) N Tinkler 8-9	Kim Tinkler	–

BETTING: 15-8 Out Like Magic, 3-1 Laurel Pleasure, 5-1 Last Knight, 7-1 Out Like Magic, 8-1 Quiz Master, 10-1 Durham Flyer, Inchalong, 14-1 others.

1996: PROUD NATIVE 9-0 J Tate (8-1) A Jarvis 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

BURNDEN DAYS (traded Apr 28), half-brother by Fayruz to several winners including Twice The Groom 1m.1 2f 21 winner and Missy S, triple 1m winner BURNT YATES (Feb 19, cost 26,000 guineas), first foal by Deshoshy North, dam half-sister to high class juvenile Mutiny. LAST KNIGHT 4(4) 4th of 6 to Magselon in maiden at Newcastle (5f, good) INCHALONG 7(4) 3rd of 9 to Classy Cleo in auction maiden at Beverley (5f, good to firm).

LAUREL PLEASURE (Feb 2), first foal by Selkirk, dam fairly useful multiple sprint winner OUT LIKE MAGIC 4(4) 4th of 15 to Blueridge Dancer in conditions race at Doncaster (5f, good to firm) with FIVE OF SPADES 14l 11th and PRINCE NICHOLAS 14(4) 12th. PENNILESS (Apr 27, 11,000 gns), half-sister by Common Grounds to three winners including very useful hurdler Chief's Song. Selection: OUT LIKE MAGIC

2.40 MARKINGTON SELLING HANDICAP
(£2,826: 1m 4f 60yd) (20 runners)

201	(17)	0/05040-	SMILE FOREVER 141 (Blandford Thanks) Miss S Kelleway 4-10-0	R Cochrane	–
202	(3)	0/06240-	WINDYEDGE 33(l) (J Cable) Mrs A Naughton 4-10-0	J Supple	68
203	(7)	241043	FORZAIR 8 (D,S) (Clayton Bigley) J J O'Neill 5-9-11	W Ryan	93
204	(6)	012800	PENTOSUN 13 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Routledge) J Pearce 5-9-10	C Teague (3)	97
205	(16)	34254-1	CHAMPAGNE WARRIOR 4 (D,F) M Camacho 4-9-10 (Sex)	L Charnock	90
206	(2)	3000-08	OPEN AFFAIR 20 (A Fawcus) H Alkary 4-9-8	D Urbina	90
207	(16)	0/6450-	SLAPPY DAM 193 (D,G,S) (Dr Hill Fyers) C Smith 5-9-7	Iona Wands (7)	91
208	(10)	0632/46-	TOTALLY YOURS 153 (M Channon) M Channon 4-9-4	Candy Morris	89
209	(9)	6/0100-0	EUROTWIST 7 (B,D,G,S) (Uncle Jacks Pub) S Kettlewell 8-9-0	J Fortune	88
210	(1)	0/40-604	PICARD 13 (Mrs A Fenton) F Murphy 4-8-13	J Fanning	88
211	(8)	0/6010-0	TAGATAY 13 (B,D,F) (M Gleason) M Camacho 4-8-13	J Carroll	89
212	(12)	032080-	IRISH OASIS 194 (H Harrenberg) B Rothwell 4-8-13	M Fenton	88
213	(15)	060	LOST IN THE POST 54 (S Reed) C Thornton 4-8-12	D McKeown	91
214	(20)	2/20423-	WATCH ME GO 284 (F,S) (Watch Me Go) B Jones 8-8-11	M Rimmer	87
215	(14)	04644-3	PENDOLINO 15 (G) (Ian Booth) M Brittain 6-8-11	G Bardwell	97
216	(4)	06-0000	SHIP'S DANCER 4 (B) (E Incosa) E Incosa 4-8-10	Kim Tinkler	90
217	(19)	543-006	ELITE BLISS 15 (Elite Racing) M Camacho 5-8-9	J Quinn	93
218	(13)	00/4000-	ANTARTICTERN 121J (V,F,G) (J Wright) G Oldroyd 7-8-9	J McAndrew	–
219	(11)	541455/	CASHMERE 498 (F) (E Spencer) J Eyre 5-8-9	R Lappin	–
220	(5)	0540-44	DINO'S MISTRAL 47 (F Lee) F Lee 4-8-8	K Fallon	92

BETTING: 11-2 Watch Me Go, 6-1 Champagne Warrior, 8-1 Pendolino, 10-1 Totally Yours, Petosun, 12-1 Forzair, 13-1 Picard, 16-1 others.

1996: COMTEC'S LEGEND 6-8-0 L Charnock (7-1) J Bottomley 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

SMILE FOREVER 3(l) last of 7 to Rasood in handicap at Lingfield (1m 4f, stand). FORZAIR 6(4) 3rd of 9 to Sedbergh in apprentice handicap at Southwell (1m 6f, stand) CHAMPAGNE WARRIOR beat Bedouin Prince head in seller at Beverley (1m 4f, good to firm) PICARD 12(3) 5th of 7 to Kalbryn's Pet in auction maiden at Musselburgh (1m 4f, soft) WATCH ME GO 11(4) 3rd of 12 to Chakalak in selling handicap at Lingfield (1m 5f, standard) PENDOLINO 4) 3rd of 18 to Dermono Flyer in apprentice handicap at Newcastle (1m 2f, good) with PICARD (4th better off) 16l 13th. ELITE BLISS 14(4) 6th of 15 to Kinako in handicap at Newcastle (2m, good) Selection: FORZAIR

3.10 FOUNTAINS HANDICAP (£5,374: 6f) (18 runners)

301	(5)	11/0000-	MR OSCAR 265 (C,F) (W McKeown) W McKeown 5-10-0	J Carroll	88
302	(6)	200015-	HIGHBORN 181 (D,F,S) (Yorkshire Racing Club) P Felgate 8 9-12	K Darley	94
303	(11)	430023-	LAGO DI VARANO 165 (C,F,G,S) (PBT Group) R Whitaker 5-8-8	D McKeown	93
304	(7)	00020-0	TILER 19 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 5-9-3	J Weaver	96
305	(5)	310610-	PALACEGATE TOUCH 185 (V,CD,F,B,S) J Berry 7-9-2	P Roberts (5)	93
306	(13)	3413-	DOUBLE ACTION 307 (F) (C Stevens) T Easterby 3-9-1	A Culhane	86
307	(9)	00500-5	SIR SILVER SOX 14 (D,BF,F,G) N Tinkler 5-9-1	Kim Tinkler	90
308	(14)	0063-11	THE HAPPY FOX 32 (B,F,G) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 5-9-0	R Cochrane	91
309	(8)	3000-00	CARBURTON 18 (V,F,S) (B Farr) J Glover 4-8-10	G Carter	86
310	(12)	400-531	KIRA 19 (D,F,G) (J Wilson) J Eyre 7-8-10	R Lappin	90
311	(4)	231460-	THE LAMSTON WORM 202 (D,F) (Lord Durham) Damp. Smith 3-8-9	K Fallon	86
312	(15)	500000-	BOLLIN HARRY 172 (D,F,G) (N Westbrook) T Easterby 5-8-8	M Birch	91
313	(10)	100000-	BENZOE 162 (D,F,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 7-8-8	J Fortune	98
314	(1)	21220-3	MAITEAMIA 9 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs Z Grant) S Bowring 4-8-7	K Sked (7)	88
315	(2)	322305-	FRENCH GRIT 155 (D,F) (M Wilson) M Dods 5-8-7	A Clark	94
316	(18)	2/31164-	TIME TO TANGO 243 (F) (Mrs D Pearson) G Moore 4-8-4	J F Egan	90
317	(16)	500000-	HALMANERROR 155 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 7-7-10	J Bramhill (5)	92
318	(17)	060600-	RICH GLOW 189 (F,S) (M Bateson) N Bycroft 6-7-10	J Quinn	87

Long handicap, Halmanerror 7-9, Rich Glow 7-6

BETTING: 9-2 Kea, 5-1 Maiteamia, 6-1 The Happy Fox, 7-1 Lago Di Varano, 8-1 Highborn, 10-1 Palacegate Touch, 12-1 French Grit, 16-1 others

1996: SUPER BENZ 10-5-6 R Lappin (6-1 fav) J Eyre 24 ran

FORM FOCUS

MR OSCAR 5(4) 7th of 12 to Twice As Sharp in handicap at Newcastle (5f, firm). HIGHBORN 6(4) 5th of 7 to Verzen in handicap at York (7f, good) LAGO DI VARANO 5l 3rd of 13 to Shantha Girl in handicap at Doncaster with PALACEGATE TOUCH (3lb better off) 7l 7th (5f, good). DOUBLE ACTION 3(4) 3rd of 6 to For Your Eyes Only in conditions race at Beverley (5f, good to firm) SIR SILVER SOX 3l 5th of 13 to Abclone Queen in seller at Catterick (7f, good) THE HAPPY FOX beat Cretan Gift 1¼l in handicap at Wolverhampton (5f, stand). KIRA beat Sallo 2½l in handicap at Doncaster with TILER (9lb better off) 13l 22nd. MAITEAMIA 1l 3rd of 11 to Surprise Mission in handicap at Newcastle (5f, good to firm) Selection: KIRA (nap)

3.40 GALPHAY CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,426: 1m) (8 runners)

401	(7)	00110-	BOLD WORDS 158 (G,S) (Mr Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-2	K Fallon	82
402	(8)	103210	FOOT BATTALION 18 (B) (J Sugg) R Hollinshead 9-2	F Lynch (3)	85
403	(1)	1-2	HANDSOME RIDGE 18 (BF,S) (Fitz Promotions) J Gosden 9-2	J Carroll	88
404	(2)	12-	WAITING GAME 192 (G) (Saeed Mohammed) D Loder 9-2	K Darley	82
405	(5)	11420-3	ECHYD-DA 11 (S) (K Dewsnip) M Bell 8-12	G Faulkner (5)	88
406	(6)	226230	MILLROY 19 (V,D,G) F Watson 8-12	Angela Gallimore (7)	85
407	(4)	500-	REHEARSAL 27(l) R Hannon 8-12	D McKeown	89
408	(3)	0120-	ATLANTIC DESIRE 156 (F) (Mrs J Pearce) M Johnston 8-11	J Weaver	87

BETTING: 13-10 Handsome Ridge, 7-4 Waiting Game, 4-1 Atlantic Desire, 5-2 Bold Words, 7-1 Millroy, 8-1 Echyd-Da, 12-1 others

1996: SAINTLLANA 9-2 S Hoad (4-6 fav) J Gosden 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

HANDSOME RIDGE short-head 2nd of 12 to Musakaa in conditions race at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with FOOT BATTALION 3l 7th and MILLROY (3lb better off) 12l 8th. WAITING GAME head 2nd of 7 to Pioneer Outlook in conditions race at Hamilton (1m 110y, good) ECHYD-DA 2l 3rd of 7 to Mister Pink in handicap at Haydock (1m 2f 120y, soft) REHEARSAL 4(3rd 3rd of 5 to Flaming West in maiden at York (7f, good) ATLANTIC DESIRE 2(4) 5th of 10 to Silver Patriarch in listed race at Newmarket (1m 2f, good) with BOLD WORDS (3lb better off) 7l 7th. Selection: HANDSOME RIDGE

4.10 STUDLEY ROYAL HANDICAP (£2,960: 1m 4f 60yd) (15 runners)

501	(3)	15233-0	SLASHER JACK 20 (D,F,G) (T Charnley) B Nicholls 6-10-0	Alex Greaves	–
502	(10)	503010-	MELTEMISON 464 (F) (Lady Seven Racing) M Hammond 4-9-11	K Fallon	89
503	(6)	23522-0	ALMUHTARAM 20 (B,F,G) (Al-Maktoum) G Lewis 5-9-10	A Whelan (3)	94
504	(12)	184'000	SHEROY 15 (F) (Mrs R Threapleton) S Kettlewell 5-9-4	J Fortune	88
505	(5)	00001-2	SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 14 (D,F,S) (Alba Racing) D Barker 6-8-13	K Darley	97
506	(2)	508-056	WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 15 (Mrs C Sykes) J Eyre 4-8-13	T Williams	95
507	(13)	0000-0	GREAT CHIEF 61 (Mrs S Buckland) Bob Jones 4-8-12	N Day	90
508	(7)	04-2121	GALAPINO 20 (D,F,G) (N Dearman) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-12	R Mullen (5)	89
509	(14)	41508-4	AUGUSTAN 6 (D,F) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) S Gollings 6-8-11	Pat Eddery	93
510	(8)	0-03253	DR EDGAR 25 (F,G) (A Watson) M Dods 5-8-10	A Clark	98
511	(11)	222310	MAFTUN 26 (D,F,G) (Hamdi Partners) G Moore 5-8-9	D Holland	98
512	(1)	600000-	MORNING SIR 251 (Rusty Pair Syndi) A Stewart 4-8-5	T Spratt	85
513	(4)	000430-	DASHING INVADER 227 (The Mistresses) P Harris 4-8-0	G Carter	85
514	(9)	021455	CAROL AGAIN 7 (D,G) (J Lumsden) N Bycroft 5-7-10	J Quinn	87
515	(15)	00230-2	MONTE CAVO 8 (B) (Bottaci) M Brittain 6-7-10	G Bardwell	90

Long handicap: Carol Again 7-9, Monte Cavo 7-1

BETTING: 9-2 Galapino, 7-1 Mafiun, 8-1 Almuhtaram, Summerhill Special, Augustan, 12-1 Mellemison, Slasher Jack, 16-1 others.

1996: PIP'S DREAM 5-8-6 W Carson (13-8 fav) M Ryan 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 1½l 2nd of 13 to Dancing Cavaliere handicap at Catterick (1m 6l, good) WGALAPINO beat Rattles Rooster 1l in 24-runner apprentice handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm) with ALMUHTARAM (10lb better off) 20l 16th. AUGUSTAN 2(4) 5th of 19 to Smaables Way in handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, good to firm) DR EDGAR 2(4) 3rd of 9 to English Invader to clames at Wolverhampton (1m 4f, stand). MAFTUN beat Kilnamurlyra Girl in 13-runner handicap at Southwell (1m 4f, stand) with CAROL AGAIN (7lb better off) 2½l 4th on penultimate start. MONTE CAVO neck 2nd of 13 to Happy Brave in maiden handicap at Southwell (1m 3f, standard). Selection: GALAPINO

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard numbers. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J lf jumps. F d flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

4.40 GRANTLEY MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,648: 1m) (18 runners)

601	(8)	4	DURAID 9 (A Sudres) Delyn Smith 5-9-13	A Culhane	91
602	(2)	0	MOST RESPECTFUL 9 (R Manners) Denys Smith 4-9-13	K Fallon	–
603	(12)	0	SAMSTORM 7 (J Craig) Miss L Perratt 7-9-13	J Quinn	–
604	(16)	500034-	DISPOL GEM 151 (W Imrison) P Calver 4-9-8	K Darley	93
605	(5)		ACTION STATIONS (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 3-8-12	D Biggs	–
606	(3)	36-	AMERICAN WHISPER 209 (Confederates) P Harris 3-8-12	Pat Eddery	95
607	(13)	60-	BURLESQUE 214 (Gordon Partners) J Bethell 3-8-12	S Drowne	88
608	(14)	0-3	BURNING TRUTH 20 (A Abdulla) R Charlton 3-8-12	T Sprake	97
609	(18)	00-	CRYSTAL GOLD 161 (M Al Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-12	D McKeown	88
610	(11)		FOOLED YOU (M Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-12	D O'Donohoe (3)	–
611	(7)	0-	GREEN CARD 188 (P Cbo) S Woods 3-8-12	W Ryan	89
612	(6)		MAKATI (H Roberts) M Camacho 3-8-12	L Charnock	–
613	(4)		PREMIER ECLIPSE (Twelve Gems) P Harris 3-8-12	G Hind	–
614	(15)	0-	QUEZON CITY 168 (Mrs S Camacho) M Camacho 3-8-12	N Kennedy	–
615	(17)		YOURS IN SPORT (B Robson) J Watts 3-8-12	W R Swinburn	–
616	(9)	0-	ZAGROS 314 (M Easterby) T Easterby 3-8-12	M Birch	–
617	(10)	00-	WELCOME HOME 193 (Messrope Saud) P Dalton 3-8-7	J F Egan	–
618	(1)		WOODBECK (B Farr) J Glover 3-8-7	G Carter	–

BETTING: 3-1 American Whisper, 7-2 Burning Truth, 5-1 Green Card, 7-1 Fooled You, 8-1 Crystal Gold, 10-1 Dispol Gem, Duraid.

1996: POLINESSO 3-8-12 M Hills (2-1) B Hills 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

DURAID 13l 4th of 8 to Perfect Paradigm in maiden at Newcastle (1m, good to firm) with MOST RESPECTFUL 7(3l 7th. DISPOL GEM 5(4) 4th of 21 to Mels Baby in lady riders at Doncaster (1m, soft) AMERICAN WHISPER 11l 6th of 18 to Royal Amaretto in maiden at Chepstow (7f, good to firm)

BURNING TRUTH 9½l 3rd of 8 to Fly To The Stars in maiden at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) CRYSTAL GOLD 14l 8th of 17 to Happy Valentine in maiden at Yarmouth (7f, good) GREEN CARD 6(4) 7th of 16 to Mukhlaser in maiden at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) Selection: AMERICAN WHISPER

5.10 SAWLEY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,882: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

1	(11)	64-4	NOIRE 15 (Mrs D Woods) M Britain 9-7	J Carroll	91
2	(10)	001060-	IMPERIAL OR METRIC 156 (F) (Clayton Bigley) R Fahey 9-7	R Winston (7)	92
3	(8)	0-1	BELLE BIJOU 60 (D,G) (J Morrison) M Johnston 9-4	J Weaver	90
4	(4)	0400-	IBN ST JAMES 173 (A Dalsaad) J Bethell 9-4	D Holland	89
5	(12)	32323-1	CASTLES BURNING 16 (G) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-2	K Fallon	89
6	(9)	560601-	EPIC STAND 155 (F) (C Webster) Mrs J Ramsden 8-11	J Fortune	90
7	(5)	456460-	FLOATING DEVON 181 (C Calvert) T Easterby 8-7	M Birch	86
8	(3)	0212-55	BALI-PET 93 (G) (R Flegg) J Parkes 8-6	J Bramhill (5)	91
9	(7)	0440J60-	NOT A LOT 170 (T Hughes) M W Easterby 8-4	T Lucas	90
10	(6)	6002-	CHALUZ 135 (N Stelclis) K Burke 8-1	J Quinn	90
11	(13)	000-5	SILVER BUTTON 13 (Mrs B Meecham) S Hellewell 7-13	Jenny Benson (7)	92
12	(1)	000-	KINGDOM EMPEROR 277 (Mrs S Camacho) M Camacho 7-12	L Charnock	88
13	(2)	0000-50	PETULA BOY 37 (Clark Services) S Bowring 7-10	P Fessey (5)	85

BETTING: 11-4 Epic Stand, 3-1 Belle Bijou, 5-1 Castles Burning, 6-1 Noire, 10-1 Ibn St James, Floating Devon, 16-1 others

1998: MUHTADI 9-7 W Carson (3-1 fav) J Dunlop 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

NOIRE 5(4) 4th of 7 to Mafool in maiden at Newcastle (1m, good) BELLE BIJOU finished 3rd, placed 1st when shd 2nd of 8 to Mogul in auction maiden at Lingfield (1m 2f, stand). CASTLES BURNING beat Mendoza ½l in 8-runner handicap at Lingfield (1m, stand) EPIC STAND beat Double Espresso 1l in 18-runner handicap at Redcar with CASTLES BURNING (3lb better off) 2¾l 3rd. BALI-PET 20(4) 5th of 10 to Aspecto Lad in seller at Southwell (1m, stand) CHALUZ head 2nd of 9 to Hello Dolly in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, stand). SILVER BUTTON 16l 5th of 6 to Potatize in maiden handicap at Musselburgh (1m, soft) Selection: SILVER BUTTON

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%
R Charlton	4	7	57.1
J Gosden	15	50	30.0
D Loder	3	11	27.3
M Stoute	8	42	19.0
C Cyzer	3	16	18.8
M Johnston	16	97	16.5
C Teague	5	29	17.2

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Pat Eddery	5	8	62.5
D Urbina	4	14	28.6
W Ryan	14	58	24.1
R Cochrane	15	63	23.8
J Weaver	17	80	21.3
K Darley	31	152	20.4
M Channon	4	26	15.4

Pas De Reponse back

PAS DE REPONSE, the leading French candidate for the Pertemps 1,000 Guineas, faces a maximum of three rivals on her reappearance at Maisons-Laffitte on Friday. The Criquette Head-trained filly, backed from 9-1 to 7-1 for the first fillies' classic with the Tote yesterday, is expected to make a successful comeback in the Prix Imprudence, a listed race over 6½ furlongs.

Sleepytime, trained by Henry Cecil, has emerged as the most popular British-trained filly with punters for the Newmarket contest on May 4. Ladbrokes were yesterday forced to cut the daughter of Royal Academy from 11-4 to 9-4 favourite in face of continuing strong support. Sleepytime has not raced since an unlucky third to her stable companion, Reams Of Verse, in the group one Fillies' Mile at Ascot last September.

On the same Maisons-Laffitte card, Clive Brittain is likely to run his French 2,000 Guineas candidate, Fantastic Fellow, in the listed Prix Djebel. Brian Meehan's German 2,000 Guineas possible, Tomba, was also among yesterday's six acceptors for the Djebel.

Ladbrokes's 1,000 Guineas betting: 9-4 Sleepytime, 5-1 Moonlight Paradise, 6-1 Reams Of Verse, 7-1 Pas De Reponse, 10-1 Yashmak, Sarayir, Khassah, 14-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Nottingham
Going: good to firm

2.00 (1m 1f 213yd) 1. RISCATTO (J Reid, 7-2 fav); 2. Sidney The Kidney (G Carter, 11-2); 3, Rochaa (M Fenton, 14-1) ALSO RAN: 5 Miss Sarcotona (5th), 6 Minor Four Sport, 7 Spendulas's Hitm, 8 Benincase 14 Hello There, Patrick, 16 Foolish Flutter, Luckonsun (6th), 20 Control Freak, 25 Captain Flint, 33 Mechitre, Top Tiller 15 ran 1½l, 2l, 1-½l sh hd, 3l W Muir at Lambourn Tote £6.70, £2.40, £2.90, £5.30 DF £12.30 Trio: £85.40 CSF £22.36 Tricast £240.84 Bought in 5,000gns.

2.30 (5f 13yd) 1. BLUSHING VICTORIA (D Sweeney, 14-1); 2, Bernardo Bellotto (Pat Eddery, Evens fav), 3, Blakeseat (R Hughes, 9-1) ALSO RAN: 3 Mishraak (6th), 4 Tipcat Boy, 7 Miss All Alone, 10 Means Business, 16 Magical Dancer (5th) 25 Down Patrol (4th). 9 ran NR Rusen 1½l, ½l, 3½l, 1-½l sh l Meade at Malmesbury. Tote £28.70; £5.90, £1.10, £1.80 DF £48.50 Trio: £47.20 CSF £32.30

3.00 (5f 13yd) 1, MOUCHE (J Fortune, 7-1); 2, Lamarita (R Cochrane, 11-2) 3, Silent Miracle (M Fenton, Evens fav) ALSO RAN: 5 Tajebah (4th), 7 Comchall, 14 Song d'Anibes (5th), 50 Aquatic Queen (6th) 7 ran. Sh hd, sh hd, 2½l, 2½l, 1¾l Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk Tote £10.40 £3.40, £2.70, DF £18.90, CSF £41.42

3.30 (6f 15yd) 1 MERANTI (R Fherch, 12-1), 2, Beau Venture (T Sprake, 16-1); 3, Grey Kingdom (D Mernagh, 20-1) 4 Pointer (D Holland, 4-1 j-fav) ALSO RAN 4-1 j-fav Flame Again, 7 Chadwell Hall (5th), 9 Sing With The Band, 12 College Night, Fairy Prince, Gofetski, 16 Cross The Border Sound The Trumpet (5th), Will Do, 20 Margaretrose Anna, Zain Dancer, 25 Gay Breeze, Magazine Gap, 33 Dashing Dancer, Into Debt, Magic Melody, Mayamp, Miss Carotiene 22 ran 4l, 2l, 2½l, ½l, ½l J Bradley at Chepstow. Tote £16.20; £5.10, £5.90, £5.80, £1.40 DF £229.70 Trio: £1,977.30 CSF £189.42 Tricast: £3,568.44

4.00 (1m 54yd) 1, LATALOMNE (D O'Donohoe, 7-1), 2, Shawm (K Darley, 4-6 fav); 3, Shaheen (K Fallon, 7-2) ALSO RAN: 10 Spy Knoll, 12 Muhawwil, 14 Occam, 16 March Crusader, 20 Epworth (4th), Nobel Lad, Select Choice, 25 Mumans (5th), 33 Final Warning (6th), Pon Friend, Reckless, Wild City, 50 Gold Digger, Top Jem, 100 Silver Jubilee 18 ran 3l, 1½l, 8l, ¾l, 3½l E Dunlop at Newmarket Tote: £12.80; £2.60, £1.50, £1.10 DF £7.20 Trio: £16.50 CSF: £12.90.

4.30 (1m 54yd) 1, EUROBOX BOY (C Carver, 3-1 fav), 2, Bedazzle (D Mernagh, 20-1), 3, Return To Brighton (J Fowle, 20-1); 4, Queens Stroller (R Bridland, 10-1)

ALSO RAN 7 Arzaro, 10 Kevacango, 11 Mezzoramo Shoobidoegrie, 12 Bold Habit, Shomrane, 14 Amest Afayadi, Legend Of Aragon (Jamaica Zeal, 16 Richard House Lad (5th) 20 Raise-U 25 One In The Eye (6th), 33 Cinnamon Stick, Okay Baby 18 ran 2l, 1-½l, ¾l, 1-½l and A Jarvis at Didcot Tote: £4.10; £1.70, £2.20, £5.20 £2.90. DF £13.80 Trio: £329.40 (part won, pool of £241.32 carried forward to 2.40 at Ripon today) CSF £70.80 Tricast £1,037.93

Jackpot: not won (pool of £28,618.60 carried forward to Ripon today).

Placepot: £236.90. Quadpot: £88.60.

Wolverhampton
Going: standard

2.15 (6f) 1. Mon Bruce (Diane O'Neill, 13-8 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Dion I Worry Mike (12-1), 3, K S Sunshine (4-1) 9 ran NR Guineas Galore Hd, nk, W Muir Tote £2.00 £1.10, £1.10, £2.10 DF £13.70 Trio: £24.10 CSF £19.87

2.45 (1m 100yd) 1, Dragonjoy (R Lappin, 5-1), 2, Square Deal (5-1), 3, Shaftisheyes (5-1) Barbara's Jewel 4-1 fav 12 ran NR Baby Jane, Wild Lily, Limmoden Tote: £9.40, £3.60 £3.40 £1.60 DF £80.20 Trio: £72.20 CSF £46.00

3.15 (7f) 1, Trading Aces (R Mullen, 4-1), 2, Faym (4-1), 3, Taycoutin (7-2 fav) 7 ran Sh hd, 2½l M Bell Tote £4.30, £2.90, £2.50 DF £7.90 CSF £19.00

3.45 (1m 4f) 1, Raffles Rooster (Iona Wands, 4-1), 2, Seefaaron (5-1), 3, Eberby Park (7-1) Trivan Rock 7-2 fav 10 ran 2½l, 2l A Newcombe Tote: £5.70, £2.00, £2.00, £1.80 DF: £13.20 Trio: £22.60 CSF £23.24 Tricast £127.19

4.15 (5f) 1, Sage (D Sweeney, 5-1), 2, Rosewood Lady (12-1), 3, Who Nose (9-4) Pink Ticket 2-1 fav 7 ran ¾l, hd, W G M Turner Tote: £5.10 £1.60, £8.50 DF £24.10 CSF £55.37 Sold for 4,600gns

4.45 (5f) 1

ATHLETICS: NEWEST NAME AMONG BRITISH MEN'S MARATHON ELITE IS CATCHING OTHERS UP FAST

Confident Staines closes on big time

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IT MAY not be a team for the future but, for this week, Britain could not wish for much better. Of the top ten contenders for the men's title in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday, four are British. Their average age is 35, so to suggest that they lack experience would be much like saying that Robbie Fowler is short of goals.

Three of the four, Eamonn Martin, Paul Evans and Richard Nerurkar, are vastly experienced and each has won at least one significant marathon during his career. Martin was the 1993 London and 1995 Chicago champion, Evans the 1996 Chicago winner, and Nerurkar the 1993 World Cup victor. The fourth Briton, Gary Staines, after only three marathons, and no wins, has some catching up to do.

Listening to the four talking yesterday, each expressing confidence in his prospects for Sunday, it seemed ludicrous that this year, of all years, the British Marathon Runners' Club should have folded. Inaugurated in 1978 as a club for sub 2hr 30min runners, it suffered declining numbers in recent years but, if the second division is weak, the first is thriving.

Martin dropped out of London last year, injured, was fourth in Chicago and is 38, but who says that is too old? Carlos Lopes set a world record at 38 and Martin is pleased with his preparation. "No problems," he said.

Evans, 36 on race day, and Nerurkar, 33, are satisfied, too, that training has gone well. In the department of contentment, Staines was just as assertive.

"Win? Of course, I can," Staines, 33, said. "After three marathons, I have the experience now. This time I think I can be as good as anybody. I have surprised myself with some of the training sessions."

He mentions Evans's winning Chicago time of 2hr 08min 52sec and notes the age difference. "I am sure I am capable of that some time in my career," he said. "I am not saying it is going to be on Sunday, but I am confident it will happen."

By way of two late confidence-boosters, Staines won the Fleet Half Marathon and set the fastest short-leg time in the Southern road relay. Short distances were what Staines made his name at on the international stage. He won the silver medal in the 5,000 metres at the 1990 European championships, in Split. It is with pride that he says: "Not many marathon runnners have run a 3min 53sec mile."

Salvatore Antibo, from Italy, had won the 10,000 metres in Split and, seeking to complete the double, fell soon after the start of the 5,000 metres. Dramatically, he made up the ground, denying Staines in a close finish.

For a brief time, it seemed that Staines might go home with the gold anyway. A protest from Portugal, claiming that Antibo had elbowed his way to victory, was subsequently rejected, however.

Staines is still waiting for his first eye-catching international win, but remains relieved that Antibo was not disqualified. "He was the better guy on the day," Staines said. The Englishman would not have felt comfortable taking the gold.

Perhaps this Sunday will bring the recognition that Staines has worked for in his ten years as a full-time runner. He has not earned much, just enough to live and pay the mortgage. He dare not think how his life might change if he won on Sunday. "It is very close, but also very far away," Staines said.

The transition from track to marathon runner took longer than it should have done, Staines said, because of his reluctance to accept the different training required. "That was one thing I found really hard," he said. "I would try to re-enact the workouts I had been doing as a 5,000 metres runner.

"I would think: 'I can still do 60 seconds for 400 metres.' But you do not need to run that quick when you are in a marathon. It took me a long time to appreciate that marathon running needs a completely different type of build-up." To begin with, speed was still his forte, as his British best of 46min 11sec for ten miles in 1993 indicated.

Staines is married to Linda Keough, whose successes on the track outscore his. While she has been injured, she has worked on his career, urging him on, supporting him. "She won a Commonwealth gold," he said. "It was a gold, wasn't it? I don't even know. I think that is because she has got better medals than I have." Yes, but for how much longer?

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Having run three marathons, and gone well in training, Staines believes he can win in London on Sunday

FLORA LONDON MARATHON 1997

Only in *The Times* next week: the complete list of London Marathon finishers

RUGBY UNION

Harlequins in urgent need of Wood's steel

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SHOWING a sense of timing as poor as their most recent result, Harlequins have slipped out of the top four clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship for the first time this season. Their defeat by London Irish at the weekend allowed Sale to edge them into fifth place, so the game with Saracens this evening takes on a greater dimension.

It will be just as significant for the British Isles team management, who will have their first sight of Keith Wood in three months. The Ireland hooker, who dislocated a shoulder against France in January, makes his first senior appearance since then and will be desperate to prove his fitness. The Lions leave for South Africa on May 17.

It was not a good weekend for a number of Lions: Tony Underwood, Tim Rodber and Jeremy Davidson did not complete their clubs' league matches, though all are optimistic that they will recover from, respectively, jaw, neck and hamstring injuries in time to tour.

Victory tonight would move Harlequins one place higher than Sale and would also reverse the 28-20 defeat sustained at Enfield in January. It would also provide further discouragement for Saracens, whose own European ambitions suffered a damaging blow when they lost at Gloucester on Saturday.

They remain without the injured Michael Lynagh and another Australia World Cup finalist, Tony Daly, reverts to the replacements. However, Francois Pienaar starts a match for the first time since pulling a hamstring in the Pilkington Cup quarter-final in February, while Philippe Sella has recovered from the injury that forced him off midway through the game at Gloucester.

Saracens have approached Br .tol for permission to speak with Martin Corry, the England A flanker who captains Bristol, about a possible transfer to London. However, Corry still has 14 months of his existing contract to fulfil and has played down prospects of a move. "I have an important job to do at Bristol, which is to help the club avoid relegation," he said.

Whichever English clubs qualify for the Heineken Cup next season, the organisers, European Rugby Cup Ltd, still face hostility from France for their scheduled arrangements. Though a recent meeting in Dublin agreed a 1997-98 season beginning on August 16 and incorporating European games during September and October, the leading French clubs perceive a season in which their domestic championship is lost to sight for three months.

Not only do they have European club fixtures to contend with but the Latin Cup, involving France, Italy, Romania and Argentina, is due to take place in October. However, an alternative arrangement would see the Latin Cup completed by the end of August, which might prove more acceptable.

Nor are all the Welsh clubs overjoyed at the prospect of an eight-club elite division, which was agreed last weekend. Neath, last season's league champions but now perched perilously just above the four relegation places, fear for their development programme should they descend to the second division.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds United 0 Blackburn Rovers 0

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford 1 Halifax 1

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Falkirk 2 Stirling 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United 2 Eastwood T 0.

ICIS LEAGUE: Third division: Tring 0 Camberley 1.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 2 Hastings 2.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Barnet 1 Wimbledon 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol Rovers 1 Crystal Palace 3; Chelsea 0 Charlton 3; Luton 1 Bournemouth 1; Queens Park Rangers 3 Bristol City 1; Watford 1 Oxford United 0; Ipswich 1 Brighton 0.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool 3 Birmingham 2. First division: Preston 1 Huddersfield 1. Second division: Barnsley 1 Man City 2; Bradford 2 Burnley 3; Carlisle 1 Hull 1

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford 2 Stansted 1.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Madrid 0 Compostela 0

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Guimaraes 0 Boavista 4; Porto 3 Espinho 0; Leca 0 Farense 0; Mantimo 1 Rio Ave 0.

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Colon 1 Racing Club 1; Gimnasia de Jujuy 2 San Lorenzo 1; Platense 1 River Plate 2; Estudiantes 0 Lanus 0; Union 2 Gimnasia y Esgrima 1; Rosario Central 0 Huracan de Ctes 0; Boca Juniors 1 Ferrocarril Oesta 1; Banfield 0 Independiente 2; Deportivo Español 1 Newell's 0.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 10 Minnesota 4; Kansas City 6 Baltimore 5; Milwaukee 5 Texas 3; New York Yankees 5 Anaheim 3; Oakland 6 Boston 2; Cleveland 8 Seattle 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Colorado 13 Cincinnati 2; Los Angeles 3 (New York 2 (in 15 inns); San Diego 3 Pittsburgh 2 (in 10 inns); San Francisco 4 Philadelphia 3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 110 Cleveland 105 (OT); Miami 94 Detroit 88; Chicago 128 Philadelphia 102; Portland 110 Denver 104; Utah 116 San Antonio 93.

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: All England men's indoor championships: Fours: Final: Stanley (I Peacock, E Henry, J Leeman, C Palmer) bt Cyphers (P Butcher, T Happell, M Sekjer, G Smith) 20-11. Triples: Second round: Bentham (A Allcock) bt Darlington (A Kirtland) 20-12; Teignbridge (J Wickham) bt North Walsham (D Ward) 22-2; South Forest (J Mills) bt South Shields (R Dykes) 22-9; Towerlands (R Howard) bt Luton (J Allen) 18-14; Desborough bt Preston 20-12; Folkestone bt Five Rivers 29-6; Kingsthorpe bt Richardsons 16-13; Blackpool Borough bt March 25-13

CRICKET

Fourth Test match

West Indies v India

ANTIGUA (fourth day of five; West Indies won toss). West Indies have scored 252 for seven against India

WEST INDIES: First innings

S L Campbell run out	10
S C Williams c Tendulkar b Kuruvilla	0
S Chanderpaul c Laxman b Kumble	24
B C Lara c Mongia b Prasad	103
C L Hooper c Azharuddin b Joshi	26
R I C Holder c Mongia b Kumble	56
†C O Browne not out	4
I R Bishop c Dravid b Joshi	17
Extras (lb 5, nb 7)	12
Total (7 wkts)	252

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-32, 3-40, 4-82, 5-224, 6-230, 7-252.

C E L Ambrose, F A Rose and *C A Walsh to bat.

BOWLING: Prasad 19-4-43-1; Kuruvilla 17-1-50-1; Kumble 31-13-66-2; Joshi 19.3-6-64-2; Ganguly 3-0-34-0.

INDIA: V V S Laxman, A D Jadeja, R S Dravid, *S R Tendulkar, S C Ganguly, M Azharuddin, S Joshi, †N R Mongia, A R Kumble, A Kuruvilla, B K V Prasad

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and B C Cooray (Sri Lanka)

Sharjah Cup

Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe

SHARJAH (Zimbabwe won toss). Zimbabwe beat Sri Lanka by 50 runs

ZIMBABWE

G W Flower lbw b Kalpage	28
C B Wishart c Maharoof b Pushpakumara	0
†A Flower c Chandana b Kalpage	42
P A Strang c Tillekeratne b Kalpage	11
*A D R Campbell c Atapattu b Muralitharan	30
G J Whittall c and b Muralitharan	44
D P Viljoen st Kaluwitharana b Chandana	22
H H Streak c Maharoof b Chandana	14
E A Brandes not out	2
A Whittall lbw b S A de Silva	3
E Matambanadzo c Maharoof b S A de Silva	1
Extras (lb 2, w 3, nb 1)	6
Total	203

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-68, 3-73, 4-91, 5-157, 6-164, 7-197, 8-198, 9-201.

BOWLING: Pushpakumara 7-0-34-1; S A de Silva 6.5-0-12-2; Kalpage 9-1-38-3; Muralitharan 10-0-39-2, Atapattu 9-0-41-0; Chandana 8-0-37-2.

SRI LANKA

R S Mahanama c and b Strang	42
†R S Kaluwitharana c Streak b Matambanadzo	4
M S Atapattu run out	14
P A de Silva c G W Flower b Brandes	32
*A Ranatunga c A Flower b Strang	0
H P Tillekeratne c Viljoen b G J Whittall	36
R S Kalpage c Matambanadzo b A R Whittall	7
U U Chandana b A R Whittall	0
M D Muralitharan b Streak	1
K R Pushpakumara not out	2
S A de Silva lbw b Streak	0
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 11, nb 1)	15
Total	153

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-59, 3-69, 4-69, 5-131, 6-148, 7-149, 8-151, 9-151

BOWLING: Brandes 6-0-24-1, Matambanadzo 5-1-18-1; Streak 8.1-2-12-2; Strang 7-3-16-2; G J Whittall 10-0-42-1; A R Whittall 10-0-39-2

Man of the match: G J Whittall

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and S Dunne (New Zealand).

KUALA LUMPUR: ICC Trophy (50 overs): Semi-final: Bangladesh 243-7 (Khaled Mashud 70, Aminul Islam 57) v Scotland. Match delayed due to rain

CYCLING

LEGAZPIA, Spain: Tour of Basque Country: First stage (Legazpia to Legazpia, 138 km): 1, G Messagia (It, Mapei) 3hr 15min 33sec; 2, S Houlet (Fr), 3, F Casagrande (It), 4, D Robellin (It); 5, J Arrieta (Sp); 6, M Boogerd (Holl) all same time.

GOLF

BERKHAMSTED TROPHY: Final scores: 143: P Streeter 73, 70. 144: J Rose 74, 70; L Donald 72, 72. 147: G Wolstenholme 72, 75. 148: S Jarman 71, 77; B Mason 75, 73, R Binney 77, 71. 149: M Briggs 76, 73; A Wainwright 75, 74

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Hartford 4 Buffalo 2; Montreal 2 New York Islanders 1; New York Rangers 3 Philadelphia 2; Dallas 2 Phoenix 2 (OT); Vancouver 3 San Jose 2

RUGBY FIVES

ALLEYN'S SCHOOL: National doubles championships: Quarter-finals: W Enstone and N Roberts bt A Rew and J Hughes 15-2, 15-4; P Atkinson and N Austin bt P d'Ancona and B Taberner 11-15, 15-9, 15-4; B Hanton and H Buchanan bt R Carr and P Bishop 15-5, 16-15; I Fuller and D Hebden bt R Guthrie and R Nagy 15-3, 15-10. Semi-finals: Enstone and Roberts bt Atkinson and Austin 15-2, 15-4; Fuller and Hebden bt Hanton and Buchanan 15-4, 15-3 Final: Enstone and Roberts bt Fuller and Hebden 15-10, 15-4.

BEDFORD MODERN SCHOOL: National over-55 championships: Singles: Semi-finals: A Hughes bt B Atkinson 15-7; J Danson bt G Pngmore 15-3 Final: Danson bt Hughes 11-2, 11-0 Doubles (round robin): 1, Denison and C Arnold 55pts; 2, Atkinson and J Robertson 54; 3, Prigmore and J Cooper 53

RUGBY UNION

ENGLAND COLTS (v Welsh Youth at Iffley Road, Oxford, April 12): R Hartley (Newcastle), L Lloyd (Leicester), S Brocklehurst (Loughborough University), J Pritchard (Bath), B Cohen (Northampton); J Brown (Coventry), P Richards (London Irish); S Trathewey (Devonport Services), A Long (Bath, captain), P Seymour (Harrogate), P Buxton (Cheltenham), J Winterbottom (Wasps), T Butler (Leicester), L Moody (Leicester), P Ogilvie (Saracens) Replacements: R Jackson (Bedford), G Samuels (Bath), R Pallow (Bath), M Kevern (Penryn), C Collins (Gloucester), E Webb (Leicester), R Beattie (Newcastle)

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town, positions at 1400GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 74, 2, Concert 78, 3, Toshiba Wave Warrior 105; 4, Commercial Union 187; 5, Save The Children 220; 6, Motorola 226; 7, Global Teamwork 305; 8, 3Com 347; 9, Ocean Rover 423; 10, Time & Tide 459; 11, Nuclear Electric 498; 12, Courtaulds International 681; 13, Heath Insured II 711; 14, Pause To Remember 741

SPEEDWAY

N P I PREMIERSHIP: Second leg: Wolverhampton 58 (M Karlsson 14, P Karlsson 12) Peterborough 32 (J Crump 11, K Talum 12). Wolverhampton win 90-87 on aggregate.

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Exeter 40 (L Lanhern 12, M Coles 10) Long Eaton 50 (M Dixon 15, J Elkins 11, C Stonehewer 11); Reading 53 (G Cunningham 15, P Pickering 12, L Richardson 11, D Mullett 10) Arena Essex 37 (T Pratt 15, T Palmer 7).

TENNIS

HONG KONG: Men's tournament: First round: D Vacek (Cz) bt A Volkov (Russ) 6-4, 7-6, M Rosset (Switz) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; J Gimelstob (US) bt H Holm (Swe) 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

ESTORIL: Men's tournament: First round: F Clavet (Sp) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; R Fromberg (Aus) bt A Voinea (Rom) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; F Fontang (Fr) bt M K Göllner (Ger) 7-5, 7-5; F Mantilla (Sp) bt R Carretero (Sp) 6-3, 6-1.

MADRAS: Men's tournament: First round: A Radulescu (Ger) bt G Motomura (Japan) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4; A Pavel (Rom) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; O Delaitre (Fr) bt J Winnink (Holl) 0-6, 6-2, 8-4

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida: Women's tournament: First round: R Dragomir (Rom) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 6-4, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) bt E Martincova (Cz) 7-5, 6-1, M Weingartner (Ger) bt J Steck (Russ) 7-5, 6-3, Shu-Ting Wang (Taiwan) bt M Serna (Sp) 4-5, 6-2, 6-1; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt E Makarova (Bela) 6-1, 6-4; A Grossman (US) bt P Langrova (Cz) 6-2, 6-4; F Labat (Arg) bt K Kschwendt (Austria) 6-3, 6-1, C Rubin (US) bt B Paulus (Austria) 6-4, 7-6; S Klemova (Cz) bt B Fulco Villela (Arg) 5-7, 6-4, 6-0; P Hy-Boulais (Can) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, J Kruger (Russ) bt P Schnyder (Switz) 7-8, 5-7, 6-4; B Schett (Austria) bt C Moraru (Rom) 6-4, 6-1, R Zrubakova (Slovakia) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 6-4, 6-3; J Capriati (US) bt C Cristea (Rom) 7-6, 6-2; S Farina (It) bt M Maruska (Austria) 7-5, 7-6, A Maureamo (Fr) bt G L Garcia (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 6-2

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup
Semi-finals, first legs
Ajax v Juventus
Borussia Dortmund v Man Utd

FA Carling Premiership
Coventry v Chelsea (7.45)
Derby v Southampton (7.45)
Everton v Leicester (7.45)
Sheff Wed v Tottenham (7.45)
West Ham v Middlesbrough (7.45)
Wimbledon v Aston Villa (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
Charlton v Huddersfield (7.45)
Manchester City v Bolton (7.45)
West Bromwich v Crystal Palace (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Newport AFC v Atherstone (7.45), Stittingbourne v Baldock (7.45). Midland division: Corby v Shepshed D; Raunds T v Evesham; VS Rugby v Bedworth. Southern division: Bashley v Havant.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Hyde; Boston v Look, Knowsley v Runcorn

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow v Bishop's Stortford. Second division: Metropolitan Police v Bedford T. Third division: Flackwell Heath v Harlow; Lewes v Kingsbury.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth v Swansea (2.0); Brighton v Cardiff (2.0); Millwall v Tottenham (2.0); Southampton v Crystal Palace (at Stapleswood, Marchwood) League Cup: Wimbledon v Oxford United (at Plough Lane, 2.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn v Oldham (7.0); Nottingham Forest v Leeds (7.0). First division: Port Vale v Sunderland (7.0). Second division: Bradford v York (7.0); Shrewsbury v Grimsby (7.0); Stockport v Barnsley (6.45), Wrexham v Carlisle (7.0). Third division: Chesterfield v Walsall (7.0); Doncaster v Chester (7.0); Rochdale v Lincoln (7.0); Wigan v Darlington (7.0)

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes Bay v Welshpool; Ebbw Vale v Briton Ferry.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey v Faversham

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Calne.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove v Deveronvale, Elgin v Buckie Thistle; Forres Mechanics v Lossiemouth; Keith v Fraserburgh; Nairn County v Wick Academy

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Buckingham Athletic; Toddington v London Colney

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Mer KA v David Lloyd.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Highworth v Abingdon United; Wantage v Kintbury.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Aloysians v Old Ignatians

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Crook v Bedlington Tarriers; Whitby v RTM Newcastle.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Darwen v Holker Old Boys; Prescot Cables v Kidsgrove.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Lye Town v Brierley Hill T

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Christchurch v Portsmouth.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Mirrlees Blackstone v Spalding.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Saltdean.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Belper Town.

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Luton v Leeds.

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Harlequins v Saracens (7.30)

Four division south
Weston-super-Mare v Henley (7.30)

Welsh League
Second division
Abertillery v Cross Keys (7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Second division
Leigh v Bramley (7.30)

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: St Helens v Leeds

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: All England men's indoor championships (at Melton Mowbray).

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: King's Lynn v Eastbourne (7.45); Poole v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League Knockout Cup: Hull v Glasgow (7.30); Long Eaton v Reading (7.30)

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The text books advise making passive leads against No-Trump slams. But there is more of a case for an aggressive lead when there is evidence that both dummy and declarer have long suits. What would you lead from the West hand in the auction below?

Dealer North — Love all — Rubber bridge

	♠AKQ ♥5 ♦A7 ♣AQJ8765	
♠J975 ♥A4 ♦1054 ♣9432	N W E S	♠1083 ♥1098762 ♦932 ♣K
	♠642 ♥KQJ3 ♦KQJ86 ♣10	

W	N	E	S
—	2C	Pass	3D
Pass	4C	Pass	4H
Pass	4S	Pass	4NT
Pass	5S	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Contract: Six No-trumps by South. Lead: ?

North had an awkward opening bid. The problem with Two Clubs was well illustrated by what happened — North-South rapidly consumed a lot of bidding space. Although his hand might appear too strong, North's alternative was to open One Club. That is rarely passed out, and in this case would have made it easier for North-South to arrive at the best spot of Six Diamonds.

I was West, and South was Zia Mahmood. My minor-suit holdings were worrying — it was quite likely that both suits would run. Had I held, say, a small singleton club there would have been a greater chance that my partner had a trick in the suit. As Zia is quite capable of following the same auction with the king of clubs instead of the king of hearts, I made the unusual (and disastrous) lead of the ace of hearts.

In general, giving away one trick is not critical when there are two long suits to run. But here, the extra heart was Zia's twelfth trick — he made three tricks in spades, three in hearts, five in diamonds and a club. Had I led a spade, Zia would almost certainly have taken the club finesse for one down.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short's setback

Nigel Short, Britain's top-ranked player, was invited to the Dos Hermanas tournament in Spain, an assemblage of the world's elite, at short notice when a last-minute vacancy occurred. Sadly, Short's lack of form became evident early on when he was comprehensively outplayed in the following encounter with Boris Gelfand, the Belarussian grandmaster.

In the opening of this game Short confused two defensive systems and found that his king had inadvertently wandered into the firing line of a massed concentration of White forces on the right flank.

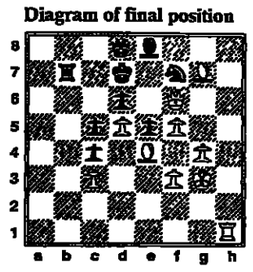
White: Boris Gelfand
Black: Nigel Short

Dos Hermanas, April 1997

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	e3	0-0
5	Bd3	c5
6	Nf3	Nc6
7	0-0	Bxc3
8	bxc3	d6
9	e4	e5
10	d5	Ne7
11	Nh4	h6
12	f3	g5
13	Nf5	Nxd5
14	exd5	Bd7
15	Bd2	Kg7
16	g4	Rh8
17	Rb1	Rb8
18	Kg2	a6
19	a4	b6
20	Rh1	Nh7
21	Qc2	Rb7
22	Be3	Qf6
23	h4	gxh4
24	Bf2	Ng5
25	Rxh4	Qd8
26	Rbh1	f6
27	Be3	b5
28	axb5	axb5
29	Kg3	bxc4
30	Qh2	Nf7
31	Bxh6+	Kg8
32	Be4	Be8
33	Be3	Rxh4
34	Qxh4	Kf8
35	Bh6+	Ke7
36	Bg7	Kd7
37	Qxf6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Staffordshire Centenary

The Staffordshire Centenary tournament pitted two teams of local and international players against each other. Team A scored a total of 41 points while Team B scored 40 points.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS: Team A: Rowson 6½; Arakhamia and Dunnington 6; Sindik 5½; Buckley 5; Robert Bellin 4½; Grant 3; Jana Bellin 2½; Anderton 2. Team B: B Lalic 7; Arkell and Quinn 6; Motwani 5½, H Hunt and Kelly 5; Cooper 3; Grinsell 1½; Richardson 1.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CLASSICS
CHAERONEA
a. A tree nymph
b. A battle
c. The ferryman's wife

OPPIAN
a. A writer on law
b. A town-dweller
c. A sporting writer

ASYNDETON
a. Unconnected words
b. A pause for effect
c. A Spartan mess club

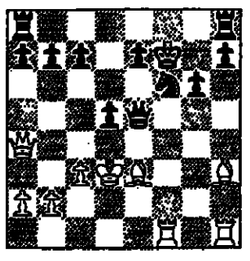
PELION
a. A javelin
b. The Theban Band
c. A mountain

Answers on page 46

WEEKEND CHESS

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Movsisian — Stoll, Bad Worishofen 1997. Black has gambitted a piece in a speculative attempt to expose the white king. Surprisingly, however, it is now White who scores a quick tactical kill. Can you see how?



Solution on page 46

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'LIVE' CHAMPIONS CUP ACTION
10/11 BOR. DORTMUND 11/5 DRAW MAN. UTD. 5/2
Kick-off 7.30pm, Live on ITV

CORRECT SCORE

5/1	BOR. DORTMUND	1-0	7/1	MAN. UTD.	1-0
7/1	BOR. DORTMUND	2-1	12/1	MAN. UTD.	2-0
5/1	DRAW	1-1	12/1	MAN. UTD.	2-1
18/1	DRAW	2-2	40/1	MAN. UTD.	3-1

Other scores on request.

FIRST GOALSCORER

5/1	RIEDLE (B)	10/1	MOLLER (B)
6/1	SOLKSJAER (M)	11/1	BECKHAM (M)
7/1	CANTONA (M)	14/1	GIGGS (M)
8/1	TANKO (B)	20/1	BUTT (M)

Own goals do not count. Other players on request.

LATEST ODDS ON William Hill TV TEXT - Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603

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Mark Hodkinson traces the great divide between Wimbledon and Halifax Town

Twilight world of the Crazy Gang's cousins

The light is on, but nobody seems to be at home. There are random signs of life, if they pass as such — two vehicles in the car park and a stack of empty milk crates by the main entrance — while, in the ground, a solitary figure in an anorak jabs the turf with a pitchfork. He points helpfully to a portable cabin at the side of the stand. "You could try in there," he says.

This grey, nondescript structure is the last piece of England to remain forever Halifax Town. It is just a few yards from the pitch where the club has played for the past 75 years. Touching distance almost, except touching is not allowed, outside of a few hours every other Saturday. The pitch, the stands, the dressing-rooms and everything within the natural amphitheatre belongs to the local council. Halifax Town are strangers on home ground. Calderdale Council settled the club's debts of £375,000 in a straight swap for a lease of the football ground formerly known as The Shay.

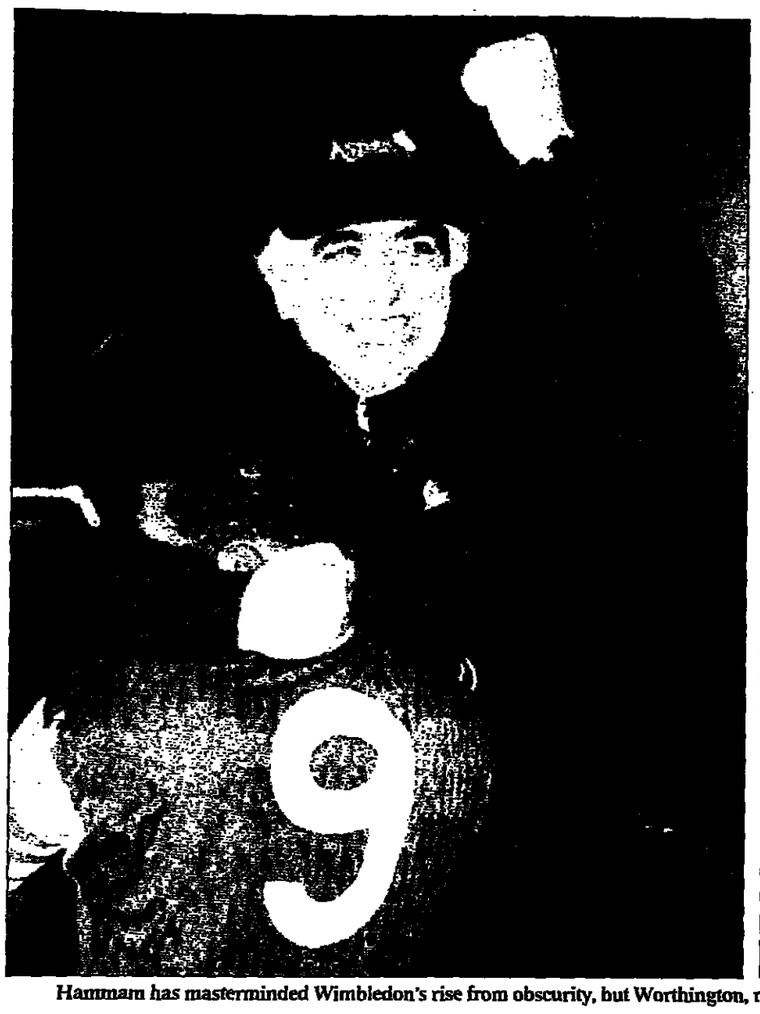
Halifax are, of course, not the only football club without a ground to call their own. Wimbledon, most famously, have managed extraordinarily well without a home, and this is highly appropriate, for the clubs have a special kind of kinship. They are the football equivalent of twin towns and the link goes back almost two decades, to a time when they were equals.

On Saturday, August 20, 1977, they met in the old fourth division. Wimbledon, after several gallant FA Cup runs, had replaced Workington in the league while, for Halifax, it was business as usual as they embarked upon their 47th league season. An open game ended 3-3. By virtue of beginning with the letter "H". Halifax were placed above Wimbledon in the table. They would never be so close again.

While Wimbledon prepare to take on Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-final on Sunday, Halifax, who lost their league status in 1993, are battling against relegation from the Vauxhall Conference.

The chasm between the clubs cuts deep. Halifax have three full-time members of staff while Wimbledon have a squad recently valued at £50 million. Wimbledon's record signing is Ben Thatcher, at £1.8 million, while Halifax's is Ian Juryeff, at £50,000. Wimbledon are going all out for the FA Cup and Europe, Halifax are all out for survival.

What has happened to cause these former foomen of the fourth division to have such diametrical fortunes? The simplistic response would be finance: Wimbledon have had it, Halifax have not. "That's not true," a Wimbledon spokesman said. "We might have a few bob now, but we didn't for a long time." The spokesman asks not to be named ("Sam doesn't like us talking too much."). Sam, of course, is Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon managing director. "In Sam we have got someone who was like Churchill in the war," the spokesman continues. "He has his own little gurus who he consults, but he makes decisions without going through lots of ruddy committees."





Hammam has masterminded Wimbledon's rise from obscurity, but Worthington, right, can only wait for Halifax Town's salvation

The choice of personnel at Wimbledon has always been inspired. From John Fashanu to Joe Kinnear, from Vinnie Jones to Dave Bassett, the club has sought the charismatic. "There's also a lot of continuity here. People stick around, especially behind the scenes, for much longer than they do at most clubs. Sam has also believed in investing in players before anything else. We've always had a brilliant youth policy."

Continuity has not been Halifax Town's forte. They had 23 managers in the period between the Second World War and their demotion. Halifax did, however, have their own successful youth policy and this, for a long period, ensured that bills were paid more or less on time.

Pete Barrow covered their affairs for the *Halifax Evening Courier* during the twilight years of their league career. He believes that the disintegration of their youth programme precipitated relegation. "The juniors were a good team. Bill Ayre [the Halifax manager from 1986 to 1990] knew everyone at the club and made them feel like they belonged," he said.

Ayre's replacement, Jim McCalliog, concentrated on experienced professionals and this formula was further endorsed by his replacement, John McGrath, who dissolved the youth team. Many Halifax fans saw this as a near-mortal blow.

In their final league season, with games running out, Halifax appointed their physiotherapist, Mick Rathbone, as team manager. "It was an inspired choice," Barrow said. "The players loved him to bits and he brought a real backs-to-the-wall attitude." Unfortunately, Rathbone was perhaps too close to the players, and some insiders felt that he was reluctant to take the substantive action required.

Halifax Town's final Football League game was against Hereford United on May 8, 1993. They needed to win but lost 1-0, the goal scored by a former Halifax player, Derek Hall. "I couldn't miss," Hall lamented. Wycombe Wanderers were promoted from the Conference and Halifax duly moved to semi-professional status. "I suppose you could say Halifax have found their level in a way," Barrow said. A ground that, in 1953, packed in nearly 37,000 for an FA Cup fifth-round tie against Tottenham Hotspur now regularly holds less than 1,000.

Barrow, a Barnsley supporter, is allowed this secular view, but to the fanatical, this assumption of a "rightful place" is anathema. Dave Worthington, the commercial manager, is one of three generations of his family who has worn the blue and white of Halifax as a player. "I just stood there devastated the day we went out," he said. "A lot of people were crying. We all went out for a few drinks afterwards, like you do in those situations."

Twenty years ago they were equals. Now the gulf goes from Wembley to the Shay

The Shay, at least by name, is no more. When the council acquired the lease, it became Calderdale Sports Stadium, though few refer to it as such. Derek Newiss, the club secretary and former chairman of the supporters' club, obliges with a guided tour. He has an extremely dry humour and a placid temperament; perhaps the ideal demeanour for a Halifax devotee.

The offices have the scuffed wallpaper and cigarette-end shabbiness of a taxi rank. The directors' box ("Well, we call it that") is a collection of breeze-blocks at the back of the stand. Foam is taped to the supporting joists above the wooden seats to reduce the risk of a sore head. The decor throughout is a surreal mixture of styles and ages; doors containing bubbly, frosted glass from the Sixties lead to dressing-rooms with shiny wooden panelling, evoking the Thirties.

Optimism, the curse of the football fanatic, is still alive amid the decay. The heart still beats. Plans have been drawn up for Halifax Blue Sox, Town's rugby league-playing neighbours, to move in. The youth structure is also back in place. "I took this job, thinking that we would get back in the league, and I still think that," Worthington said. "Someone will come along eventually and invest in the club."

The link with Wimbledon continues, consolidated by the efforts of Robert Holmes, an estate agent with a shop in Wimbledon Village, who has supported Halifax Town for 35 years. He holds an annual fund-raising party and the most recent was attended by Kinnear. "Joe and the boys are always keen to support it," Holmes said. "They've never forgotten their roots and I think they genuinely hold a lot of affection for Halifax Town."

At some point this week, Wimbledon's fax machine will shudder into life and proffer the usual good-luck messages from Halifax Town. "We always refer to ourselves as 'your northern supporters' club'," Newiss said. The Wimbledon dream has come true and could once again embrace a visit to Wembley. The wait continues for Halifax.

Robson ready to step forward

By Peter Ball

IN THE course of the next eight days, Middlesbrough have an FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford and a Coca-Cola Cup final replay at Hillsborough to look forward to. The FA Carling Premiership visit to Upton Park tonight appears to be mundane in comparison, but it may be the most important game of the three.

While Middlesbrough were slogging it out with Leicester City at Wembley on Sunday in the Coca-Cola Cup final that ended in deadlock at 1-1, Coventry City's win at Anfield dragged the Teesside club back into the bottom three of the Premiership. Although they have the games in hand to get clear of trouble by their own efforts, they must translate cup form into league performances if they are to survive. Five out of their remaining seven league games are away from home.

"There was a real buzz when the players trained on Monday morning after the Wembley disappointment," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said. "Nobody wants a rest, they're all trying to impress me to get into the cup-ties, but the danger with so many matches is that players do not have time to recover from knocks and that's when you get serious injuries."

Their programme is beginning to take its toll, with Pearson, Fleming, Emerson, Stamp and Beck all nursing injuries. So too is Fabrizio Ravanelli, who is struggling with an Achilles tendon problem and who may be missing this evening, although if surgery is needed to repair the damaged tendon, it is likely to be delayed until the end of the season.

Yesterday, Robson revealed that he was preparing for a return to the fray himself in the last week of the season as the injury list lengthens. "I'm not thinking about playing in a final, but what is in my mind is to play in league matches so that I can rest players," he said.



Robson: comeback

West Ham also have problems, with Dicks and Moncur suspended and Williamson, Ferdinand and Breacker injured. Steve Lomas makes his debut in midfield after moving to Upton Park from Manchester City. Six weeks ago, they looked one of the hottest candidates for relegation, but the arrival of Paul Kitson and John Hartson has produced goals and an escape route.

Leicester are more comfortably placed, but they still need a point or two for safety. Tonight, they take their tired limbs and high morale to Goodison Park, where Everton are in danger of joining the scrap to avoid relegation. Middlesbrough may be short of bodies, West Ham were short of goals, but Everton are desperately short of both. The injury list worsened after Saturday, with Unsworth and Barmby both doubtful, while Short and Parkinson missed training yesterday.

"We are in a situation where whoever is available gets a game at the moment," Dave Watson, the caretaker player-manager, said. "I'd love this problem other managers seem to have of trying to decide who to leave out."

Everton's problem is that those who do play, do not score. They have netted only one goal, by Ferguson, from a recognised striker in their past seven games. Ferguson has managed eight Premiership goals all season and Barmby just four. "We've been short on goals," Watson said, "and right now I'd be happy for them to come from anyone, but it's true we haven't had a prolific 20-goals-a-season man here since Gary Lineker."

Derby too need, at most, a couple of wins to be safe and they could take a big step tonight against Southampton, who return to the East Midlands after giving themselves hope at Nottingham Forest on Saturday. Southampton do score goals, but they concede them with equal alacrity. Derby's main problem might be the Manchester United syndrome — the theory is that lesser teams who beat United put so much effort into the achievement that they become easy meat for their next opponents.

McStay fights for fitness as Celtic prepare for semi-final

By Our Sports Staff

PAUL McSTAY, the Celtic captain, may miss the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final against Falkirk on Saturday, the game dubbed the most important of the season by the club's manager, Tommy Burns.

McStay, the midfield fulcrum of Burns's team, is receiving intensive treatment on the groin injury that forced him to limp off early on in Saturday's draw with Raith Rovers and Burns admitted yesterday: "There is definitely a doubt over him."

Phil O'Donnell is also doubtful, but Burns said that he should recover from an injury to his heel in time to play and he stressed the importance of both players' availability. "It has become a mega game for us," he said. "The reason to be with a big club is to get involved in big games. We had to win a big game against Rangers to get into this one and we want to take full advantage of that.

"The players deserve it for their level of consistency. In most other countries, they would have a lot more to show for it, but here there is another team called Rangers who have been even more consistent. We applaud them for that, but it should also motivate us."

Brighton will challenge the Football Association over the two-point deduction made after a pitch invasion at the club's home game against Lincoln City on October 1. In a statement, the directors of the club five points adrift at the bottom of the Nationwide League third division said the punishment was, and remains, unfair. The club will take action through arbitration under the FA's rules or take the FA to court.

Brighton were docked the points in December, having gone into this season with a three-point suspended sentence hanging over them in the wake of the riot that caused the home match against York City to be abandoned last April. The club's appeal against the sentence was turned down in February.

Paul Peschisolido, the West Bromwich Albion striker, is considering retirement from the Canada national team after he was sent off in a World Cup qualifying tie against El Salvador on Sunday. Peschisolido was so ashamed after being dismissed during Canada's 0-0 draw that he felt the best way to make amends was to resign from the squad.

In a statement, Peschisolido said that he did not speak to the media after the match because he was "both angry and embarrassed". "I understand that I have let my team and my manager down and I deeply regret the sending-off incident," he said.

Peschisolido has been sent off three times while playing for Canada. His expulsion on Sunday means he is automatically suspended for Canada's next game in the Concacaf zone qualifiers, which is against Jamaica on April 27.

Trevor Morley, the Reading top scorer with 23 goals this season, will be out of action for up to six months after being told he needs surgery on the knee ligaments that he damaged against Barnsley on Easter Monday.

Ajax offer brave face on threat posed by Juventus

By Our Sports Staff

THE European Cup semi-final between Ajax Amsterdam and Juventus tonight pits the 1995 and 1996 champions against each other and offers a repeat of last year's final. The sides were then evenly balanced, with Juventus only claiming the Cup on penalties. This year, though, Juventus appear to hold the trump cards.

Even in Holland, many doubt whether Ajax can extract revenge. Last week, Jari Litmanen, the Dutch side's Finland international, rated Juventus the best club side in the world, saying they appeared even stronger than last year.

At the weekend Juventus appeared to prove him right with a 6-1 demolition of AC Milan, the Italian League champions, but, although Juventus start as favourites for the two-leg semi-final, Ajax's form has improved since their stuttering start to the season. Since the winter break, they are unbeaten in Europe and have a 100 per cent record in the Dutch League.

Louis van Gaal, the coach, is upbeat about his side's prospects and believes Ajax are fresher and sharper than when they lost last year's final. "If there is one team in the world that can beat Juventus, then it is us," he said.

The Turin team's only problem is the fitness of Alen Boksic, the Croat, who has a muscle strain. However, the return of Didier Deschamps should be adequate compensation.

Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, was expected to confirm a front-line pairing of Nicola Amoruso and Christian Vieri, recently capped by Italy. Amoruso replaced Boksic in the victory over Milan and got on the scoresheet.

Ajax will probably field the team that came back to win a thrilling quarter-final second leg at Atlético Madrid with Patrick Kluivert, suspended for the match in Spain, now ruled out by injury.

Ajax expect Kluivert to be out for about a month, so he seems certain to miss the return leg in Italy. Indeed, Kluivert, who is bound for AC Milan at the end of the season, may not play for Ajax again.

Danny Blind, the defender, Marc Overmars, the midfield player, and Nordin Wooter and Dani, the strikers, are carrying slight injuries but should play.

AS Roma yesterday dismissed Carlos Bianchi, their Argentine coach, and appointed Nils Liedholm, 74, the renowned Swedish coach, to replace him.

Bianchi, who had been in the job only since last summer, paid for a 2-1 defeat by Cagliari on Sunday which left Roma four points adrift of a Uefa Cup place.

Liedholm has been chosen while Roma look for a permanent replacement — possibly Giovanni Trapattoni, of Bayern Munich, — for next season.

Liedholm took AC Milan to the league championship in 1979, before guiding Roma to the title in 1983, along with three Italian Cup successes (1980, 1981 and 1983) and a European Cup final in 1984 — lost on penalties to Liverpool.

Liedholm said he did not need much persuading to resume the job. "I owe Roma a lot, as a club, as a city and as fans. It's hard to coach in Italy and I'm sorry for Bianchi, who is a great coach and was a great player in his time."

Liedholm has had three previous spells as the Roma coach from 1973 to 1977, 1979 to 1984 and 1987 to 1989.

CRICKET

Scotland chasing stiff target

From a Special Correspondent in Kuala Lumpur

RAIN, which has dogged the later stages of the ICC Trophy, allowed the completion of only one innings in yesterday's second semi-final. Bangladesh posting a formidable 243 for seven against Scotland.

Bangladesh, coached by Gordon Greenidge, increased their run-rate throughout their 50 overs. Khaled Mashud and Aminul Islam making half-centuries before Minhajul Nannu weighed in with 39 not out from 31 balls.

To win and claim a World Cup berth when the match resumes at the Kilat Club this morning, Scotland must score more than any other team has managed batting second on these slow matting pitches.

If the ICC had counted on the artificial surfaces being able to cope with the seasonal rains, they had not allowed for saturated outfields such as the one that confronted the umpires when they arrived at the ground.

A helicopter was summoned to dry out the swampiest areas but when play got under way midway through the afternoon, there were still parts of the ground that would have been deemed casual water on a golf course.

Scotland continued with the tactic of opening the bowling with a spinner and Ian Beven delivered a tidy ten overs and collected a couple of wickets for 29 runs.

Stuart Kennedy was again the model of economy with his little medium-pacers and figures of no wicket for 24 would have been even better but for 11 coming off his final over.

The game got away from George Salmond's team during a third-wicket partnership of 115 in 25 overs between Mashud and Islam that threatened a score nearer 300 than 250. But when John bowled Islam for 57, wickets fell quickly before Nannu raised the spirits of his team's 2,000 supporters.

It would be premature to write off such a quietly efficient team as Scotland, but it now seems likely that they will have to play off against Ireland tomorrow to decide which team gets the third and final World Cup place.

BOWLS

Strong finishes see Bentham into final

TONY ALLCOCK, the world outdoor singles champion, has helped his Bentham club colleagues, Richard Shergold and Andy Wills, overcome a succession of unpromising starts to reach the final of the national indoor triples championship (David Rhys Jones writes).

Against Newquay, skipped by Tim Phillips, Bentham turned a 9-6 deficit into a 20-9 victory, but dropped the first seven shots against Darlington. After 11 ends, they were 11-7 adrift and Darlington still led 12-11 after 13.

A 1-1-1-4-2 sequence saw them home, 20-12, setting up a quarter-final encounter with Teignbridge, skipped by the England player, John Wyckham. Teignbridge raced into a 9-2 lead by the sixth end, but Allcock's men piled up 18 shots to Wyckham's four over the next nine ends, putting themselves almost beyond reach at 20-13, then survived a spirited late rally to win 20-18.

Patience brought its reward in the semi-final, too, when Bentham scored telling counts of five and four on their way to an 18-17 victory over South Forest.

In today's final, Bentham will face Andrew Manton, Ian Walker and Mick Sharpe, of Kingsthorpe, who scraped past Blackpool Borough, the 1994 champions, in the quarter-final, and got home, 21-16, against Desborough, Maidenhead, in the semi-final.





Woods plays out of a bunker during practice for the Masters yesterday. His game is well-suited to Augusta National. Photograph: Blake Sell

Woods focuses on the big issue rather than colour supplement

John Hopkins, golf correspondent, on the Masters hopes of a man trying to put the game before questions of race

For Tiger Woods, golf's latest prodigy, the Masters is indeed special. On the one hand, the glorious prize of finishing first six months after turning professional is within his grasp because Augusta National golf course could scarcely be better suited to his own particular talents if he had designed it himself. On the other hand, the fabled club in Georgia, the Deep South of the United States, until recently stood for racial prejudices of the sort that Woods, an Afro-Asian, found unacceptable and criticised in a series of television advertisements.

Woods has turned golf on its ear since he turned professional last summer, winning three of his first nine tournaments. Yet nothing would compare with the effect a victory by Woods in the 61st Masters, which starts tomorrow, would have.

It would come in an event in which no black golfer was invited to play until Lee Elder qualified in 1975. When he did so, the caddies at Augusta went to the 1st tee and lined his path. And it would come at an event where, until 1983, every caddie was black, reinforcing every racial stereotype. Though to most eyes, the white, wooden clubhouse and the flowering shrubs of Augusta are a thing of beauty, to some the club is a place they could barely tolerate.

Lee Trevino, for example, found Augusta so unsympathetic that he rarely, if ever, went into the locker-room. Trevino, whose left-to-right style of play and tendency to hit a low ball were not suited to the course, would change his shoes before and after a round in his car, as if he was competing at a municipal course.

Woods, the son of an American father and a Thai mother, learnt about racial prejudice early when they were the only multiracial family in an all-white neighbourhood in California. Woods was the only black child in his kindergarten class and older white children once tied him to a tree and taunted him.

So there was real edge to the



advertisements for Nike in which Woods appeared soon after turning professional. "There are still courses in the United States that I am not allowed to play because of the colour of my skin," Woods said. The advertisements were soon withdrawn but Woods's point had been made. Before him, the successes of Elder, Calvin Peete, Jim Dent and other blacks merely heightened the impression that golf was predominantly a game for whites who had grown up in American country clubs.

Woods was asked recently whether Augusta National was one of the clubs he was referring to in those advertisements. His response was illuminating. The hitherto relaxed tone of his voice changed and his answer was terse. "No, it's just another tournament to me," he said. "I am going to go over there and treat it as such. I'm going to go over there and try to win it."

Last year Jack Nicklaus said that Woods should win the Masters more times than he and Arnold Palmer combined, a total of ten. It was an anointing from a god and Woods was flattered. Though Woods has not broken par at Augusta in the six rounds he has played and missed the cut last year, he has all the attributes needed to cope here.

"I hit the ball a long way from the tee and I hit the ball very high," Woods said. "You do not see a lot of low-ball hitters doing well because the greens are so hard." This means that Woods can play his approach shots to the greens with short irons, hitting the ball high so that it lands softly. And this means he gives himself the best possible chance of achieving the accuracy on the greens that Augusta requires.

In practice, Woods has received advice from Fred Couples, Ray Floyd, Nicklaus and Palmer, former champions all. He has spent hours watching videos of past events and steeped himself in the tournament's history. "The danger for me is overdoing it, trying too hard and losing patience," Woods said. "But I know how to focus. I've done it before."

Nick Faldo said it took him four or five years before he felt comfortable at Augusta. "There is a learning curve here," he said yesterday. "It takes discipline, aggression, caution and patience. This is the 1990s, the media age and Tiger is a phenomenon. There is a lot of pressure on him but there again he has had a lot of attention since he was born."

What a story victory by Woods would be. Not least because it would come 50 years almost to the day after Jackie Robinson began playing Major League baseball. Robinson, remember, was the first black player to do so.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A very natural selection

Seven Wonders of the World
BBC2, 7.00pm

Playing the wonders game tonight is Richard Dawkins, the Oxford biologist and expert on evolution. Sue Lawley introduces him as a controversial figure, whose fluency and clarity has been mistaken for intellectual arrogance. But there is little that is contentious in either his choice of wonders or his justifications for them. Unsurprisingly, evolution bulks large. He says he would have chosen natural selection as one of his seven, had it not already appeared in the series. Instead, he makes do with two exceptional evolutionary examples, the web of the spider and the ear of the bat. Man-made wonders include digital codes and the parabolic reflector in giant telescopes. Dawkins steps aside from science to celebrate the fast and nimble fingers of the concert pianist and to pay homage to that great communicator, Sir David Attenborough.

Black Britain
BBC2, 7.30pm

Scott Sherrin was a talented young performer whose career embraced West End theatre (*Cats* and the lead role in *Fame*), playing in the Royal Variety Show with Gene Kelly and joining Esther Rantzen's team on *That's Life*. But a year ago his body was dragged from the Thames. He was 23 and although the inquest returned an open verdict, it seemed that he had been driven by mental illness to end his life. As Rianna Scipio's report shows, Sherrin suffered because he was black but not in the usual way. As a baby he was adopted by white parents and the film suggests that because of this he was never accepted in the black community. To them he was not black enough. He also had his fill of prejudice from whites. It is a deeply tragic story, told with sadness and compassion.

Home Front
BBC2, 8.30pm

You could call it *Blue Peter* for grown-ups, for not only does the show have a relentless jollity, exemplified by its presenter, Tessa Shaw, but it is wonderful for coming up with bright ideas that cost next to nothing. Want to cheer up a dreary blind? All you need is a sponge dipped in emulsion



The Home Front team (BBC2, 8.30pm)

paint and off you go. Never mind that the result looks ghastly. The main thing is that it is different and cheap. At a guess the series is aimed at youngish, middle-class professionals with a penchant for garish colours. That, at least, is the deduction from many of the items, such as tonight's exercise in giving a facelift to bathrooms. The best part of the new series, as of the last, promises to be the running report on a couple's restoration of their period home, in this case a 300-year-old cottage.

Modern Times: Brainstorm
BBC2, 9.00pm

Profiling four victims of job-related stress, Dev Varma's film is a devastating critique of a modern business culture that pushes people to the limit and sometimes beyond. Martyn Sheppard ran a corner shop with his wife. His troubles started when a supermarket opened nearby and took away a third of his business. Working 70-hour weeks could not save him. Dr Terence Hirst was a successful GP for 23 years until he moved into fundholding and was crushed by the extra paperwork. Ray Willox found himself under increasing pressure at the Department of Social Security and eventually cracked. Christopher James had a bright career in British Gas until huge job cuts forced him to work longer and longer hours. The casualty rate is shocking. One of the four killed himself, another tried to and a third disappeared. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Music under Dictatorships
Radio 4, 8.05pm

Hang on a minute! Haven't some folk at the BBC got their networks in a twist? A series blending musicology and political history, not on Radio 3, but on Radio 4? No, that's what our radio listings say (see below) and that's exactly what they mean. But, whatever the network, Michael Oliver's four-part series about how music fared under repressive 20th-century regimes makes up a fascinating catalogue of surreal proscriptions. Episode one deals with the Nazis. I knew that Hitler couldn't get enough of Wagner. What I didn't know was that he banned jazz music because he said it was Jewish, or that he ordered the Germanising of the words of Verdi's librettist da Ponte because he was a baptised Jew.

Imperial Palace
Radio 4, 12.25pm

Except for one or two that have withered when lifted, Arnold Bennett's novels tend to flourish when transplanted in radio soil. The dialogue, as originally penned, makes extremely good listening, so adapters need not feel inadequate about leaving Bennett's words intact. Also, many of his characters give actors plenty of room to move about inside their skins. On both counts, Peter Ling's dramatisation of *Imperial Palace* gets off to a pleasing start. Imperial Palace is a fashionable hotel in the London of the 1930s, and we follow the fortunes of its staff and well-heeled paying guests. The period atmosphere is accurately caught in Enyd Williams's direction. The cast includes Robin Ellis and Colleen Prendergast. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, includes 7.30 Newsbeat 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Global Update 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Barraclough 8.00 Jim Lloyd 9.00 The Music of Japan (4/4) 9.00 As Time Goes By. An adaptation of his TV sitcom by Bob Larbey 10.00 Explorer II 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Marr 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra with Valerie Singleton 7.20 Trevor Brooking's Football Night. Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United including the results of the National Lottery draw 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours with John Diamond 2.05am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Chen (8/8) 7.30 Discovery 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Global Shake-Out 9.07 World News 9.15 Andy Kershaw 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.30 One Planet 11.30 Sports International 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Composer of the Month 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Megamix 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Global Shake-Out 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.30 Discovery 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian On Screen 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Science View 11.15 Country Style 11.30 Multitrack 12.30am From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Assignment 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian Books 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto Telemann (Concerto for Trumpet and Strings in E minor); Delius (Piano Concerto in C minor) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata. Hummel (Piano Sonata No 1) 8.00 Evening Concert Bach (Musical Offering for flute, 1 violins & continuo BWV1079). Mozart (Divertimento K229 No 2); Carl Maria von Weber (Grand Duo Concertant Op 48); Tchaikovsky (String Sextet Op 70, Souvenir de Florence) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 6.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air**, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Haydn (Symphony No 90 in C); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue Op 87 No 6); Rodrigo (Concierto Andaluz)
9.00 **Morning Collection**, with Penny Gore. Includes Schumann (Overture, Scherzo and Finale); Haydn (Piano Trio in E, H XV 18); Loeffler (La Mort de Tintagiles)
10.00 **Musical Encounters**, with Piers Burton-Page. Includes Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 14); Haydn (Symphony No 50 in C); Brahms (Marienlieder); Schubert (Piano Sonata in G, D894)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Rozsa**
1.00pm **Concert Hall.** Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Palladian Ensemble Turini (Sonata a tre), Uccellini (Ciaccona); Corelli (Sonata in E); Kapsberger (Ballo); Telemann (Sonata in G for viol and continuo; Sonata in C for recorder and continuo); Bach (Goldberg Canons, BWV1087)
2.00 **Midweek Choice**, with Susan Sharpe. Includes Holst (Four songs for voice and violin)
4.00 **Choral Evensong.** Live from Blackburn Cathedral
5.00 **Music Machine**, with Luke Cresswell
5.15 **In Tune**, with Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Beethoven (Overture The Creatures of Prometheus); Godowsky (Kunstlerleben)
7.30 **Towards the Millennium.** The London Sinfonietta presents two classic experimental vocal works. Cornelius Cardew (Great Learning, Paragraph 1): Director Daryl Runswick, Michael Chant, organ. Stockhausen (Stimmung): London Sinfonietta Voices, conductor Terry Edwards
9.45 **The Undertaking.** The American poet Thomas Lynch talks about his work as an undertaker
10.00 **Ensemble.** Penny Gore introduces two violin sonatas played by Tasmin Little and Piers Lane, piano. Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A, Op 30 No 1), Dohnanyi (Violin Sonata in C sharp minor, Op 21)
10.45 **Night Waves.** Michele Roberts reports on the English National Opera's new production of Berlioz's setting of *The Damnation of Faust* reuniting David Alden and Mark Elder as director and conductor. Bonaventura Bottone sings Faust and Willard White plays the devil Mephistopheles
11.30 **Composers of the Week: Amy Beach** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** Digby Fairweather introduces Henry Lowther's group Still Waters in session
1.00am **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping Forecast (LW)** 6.00 News: Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer 6.30 Today. Includes Thought for the Day 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Election Call.** Peter Sissons puts listeners' questions to Labour's Robin Cook. Call 0345 514 614
10.00 **News; Viewing Essential (FM).** Another look at the stresses of moving house
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)**
10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour**, with Jenni Murray
11.30 **Gardeners' Question Time** (r)
12.00 **News; You and Yours**, with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm **Imperial Palace.** See Choice 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; My Way**, by Georgia Pritchett (r)
2.45 **Treasure Islands.** Kit Wright unravels the secrets of writing for children
3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift**
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Paul Gambaccini sees *The People vs Larry Flynt* and Michael Billington prepares for his own first night
4.45 **Short Story: Bycles**, by Carlo Gebler, read by Sean Baker
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **Brain of Britain.** The first round of the nationwide general knowledge quiz chaired by Robert Robinson (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **The Coroner.** Another behind-the-scenes look at the West Yorkshire Coroner's office (3/6)
8.05 **Music under Dictatorships.** See Choice
8.35 **When Mary Met Solly.** Sue Margolis explores the attraction between Catholics and Jews (r)
9.00 **Costing the Earth.** Mark Whittaker reports from Northern Ireland
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between**, by L.P. Hartley. Read by John Rowe (3/10) (r)
11.00 **The Skivers.** The comedy sketch show with Nick Golson and Tim de Jongh (r)
11.30 **Doon Your Way.** With Doon Mackichan, Pam Ferris and Lesley Sharp (r)
12.00 **News** 12.30am **The Late Book: Never Marry a Mexican**, by Sandra Cisneros, read by Rita Moreno (r)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Norman determined to atone

GREG NORMAN said yesterday that he wanted his 1996 Masters collapse to be consigned to history. "I know I gave you a pretty good story last year, but now I hope to give you a better one," Norman said of his last-round 78 that allowed Nick Faldo to win by five shots after Norman had led by six overnight.

The world No 1 described it as "the worst round of my life", but said it was now behind him and that he would never discuss it again. "I want the old story to finish after this interview," Norman said. "I created it, but from now on I will create different issues.

"I want to play the game the way I know I can. If you keep thinking about your worst round, you'll keep playing rubbish, so I'm thinking about my great rounds.

"I feel sorry for Nick as I don't think he has had the credit. He put in a great performance, put pressure on me and did all the right things. But I know I can be in that position again."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Lola move towards quick return

LOLA, the Huntingdon-based motor racing team, could return to Formula One just weeks after withdrawing from the world championship. The team pulled out before the Brazilian Grand Prix last month, but may be set for a comeback in time for the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on April 27.

Eric Broadley, the team manager, said yesterday that he was hoping to secure a deal that would enable the cars to reappear. The team withdrew after their Ford-powered cars failed to qualify for the Australian Grand Prix.

Cricket: Curtly Ambrose became only the third West Indian to achieve the double of 100 wickets and 1,000 runs in Tests yesterday as his side was bowled out for 333 just before lunch in Antigua on the fifth and final day of the fourth Test against India.

India's opening batsmen safely negotiated four overs before the interval to finish on three without loss. Ambrose joined Sir Garfield Sobers and Malcolm Marshall, the West Indies coach, on the exclusive list.

Equestrianism: The Windsor International Horse Trials, an intermediate standard event that takes place from May 22 to 25 in Windsor Great Park, began a new phase in its 17-year history with the announcement of a three-year sponsorship contract with Chubb Insurance. The sponsorship, announced by the Princess Royal, the president of the trials, has enabled the organisers to make significant changes to the cross-country course.

Tennis: Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion from Holland, beat Tomas Nydahl, of Sweden, in straight sets on his return after injury in the first round of a men's tournament in Madras yesterday.

Motor cycling: Carl Fogarty, the former world superbike champion, was quickest on the opening day of a two-day test at the Misano circuit, in Italy, yesterday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

CHAERONEA
(b) In Boeotia. The scene of the defeat of the Thebans and Athenians by Philip of Macedon in 338BC. The battle "fatal to liberty" referred to in Milton's sonnet *To the Lady Margaret Ley*. Sulla defeated Mithridates here in 86BC. Chaeronea was the birthplace of Plutarch.

OPPIAN
(c) Of Cilicia. Author of the time of Caracalla (AD211-217) of a Greek didactic poem in five books, entitled *Halieutica*, on fish and fishing. Another didactic poem, in four books, on hunting (*Cynegetica*), is attributed to him, but appears to be by an author of the same name and period, but a native of Apamea in Syria.

ASYNDETON
(a) "Not bound together." A figure of speech in which words or clauses that in ordinary speech would be connected by conjunctions are left unconnected. For example, Quintilian quotes a lost passage from Cicero: "*Quaero ab inimicis, sintne haec investigata, comperta, patefacta, sublata, deleta, extincta per me.*"

PELION
(c) A wooded mountain near the coast of Thessaly. According to Greek mythology, the giants Otus and Ephialtes piled it on top of Ossa, and then Ossa onto Olympus, in their attempt to get at the gods to overthrow them. [This was odd, since the gods lived on Olympus.]

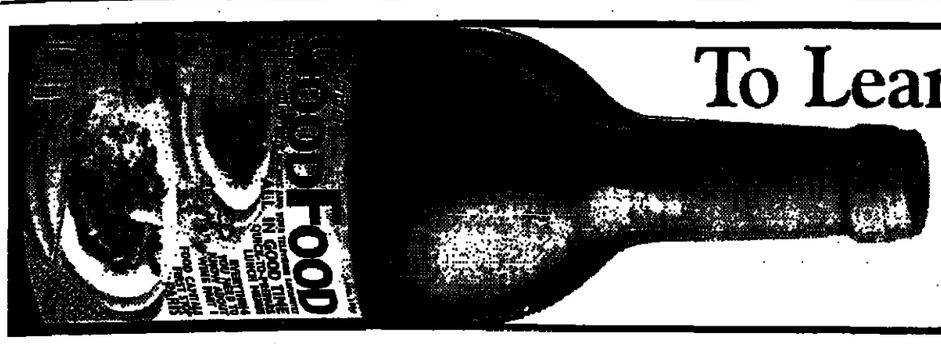
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxf6+! exf6 (1 ... Qxf6 2 Rf1 is hopeless, as is 1 ... Kxf6 2 Bd4) 2 Qd7+ with a *quick mate, e.g. 2 ... Qe7 3 Be6+ Kf8 4 Bh6+.*

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I'm sure I know that face from somewhere

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Last year, I was among a small minority who didn't much like **Murder One** (BBC2), largely because I couldn't bear the preposterous performance turned in by Daniel Benzali as Ted Hoffman, the unflappable, infallible and follicle-free lawyer at the story's heart. Growl, growl, he went, delivering every syllable-perfect line in a theatrical stage-whisper that might have been all right in Stratford-upon-Avon but which stood out like a sore throat in downtown Los Angeles.

Anyway, nobody else agreed with me and I forgot all about it until last night, when the series returned . . . without Benzali. Apparently just about everybody agreed with me in America (that's what comes of watching too much imported television) including Steve Bochco, its creator. At a stroke, Hoffman was history. They weren't quite scraping his name off the door when the new series began, but they weren't far off.

"Mr Hoffman is out of the country," lied Louis, the camp office manager. "Ted's putting his marriage first," explained Justine who, for those who have forgotten, is the pretty one. It was all too much for Chris Docknovitch: "Why are we maintaining the fiction that Ted is coming back?" Presumably just in case the networks don't like his replacement, James Wyler (Anthony La Paglia). But I have a feeling they will.

Wyler, you see, is a normal human being — or as close to a normal human being as you get on American television. That means he's way too handsome, wins every argument and when he's having trouble getting a bank loan approved . . . he seduces his way too beautiful bank manager. Frankly, I liked him from the moment he got an over-aggressive police officer to punch him on the nose and promptly won his final case as assistant district attorney.

The reason it was his final case and the reason he has now changed sides to become head honcho at what will shortly become Wyler & Associates brings us to the plot, which already is almost too complicated to explain.

He left the DA's office because he had been deliberately overlooked for promotion by his boss, Roger Garfield, who is running for the governorship of California. Garfield's opponent is Tom Van Allen, or rather he was until Van Allen, the incumbent, became Van Allen, the permanently recumbent, after being shot in the head while in bed with his mistress. The police say a former girlfriend did it and Wyler landed the high profile job of defending her. The only problem? She says she did it, too.

Complicated it is and high-art it definitely isn't. Some of the lighter moments are awkwardly scripted and the babe-quota is more Aaron Spelling than Bochco, but the re-casting was faultlessly handled and the storyline quickly proved enjoyably addictive. My one real reservation is having the main baddie played by Ralph Waite, the actor best known as the gooder-than-God, Pop Walton. Casting against type, I think it's called.

Previous incarnations were a bit of a problem in last night's **Peak Practice** (ITV). Having Valerie Gogan (who as Alex slid off a cliff and out of *Hamish Macbeth* a year ago) play the terminally busy Melissa was one thing, but having her told she was also terminally ill by Ralph Riach, better known as Lochdubh's Television John, was quite another.

But they got away with it, helped by the fact that James Stevenson, the writer, had come up with one of the best serious subplots for some time. The newly married Melissa appeared to be pregnant. Congratulations, said Dr Erica. Didn't want it, said Melissa, far too busy. Boo, hiss we went at home. Five minutes later, it turned out that her symptoms were actually of ovarian cancer. Boo, hoo we went at home. Good performances from Gogan and from Alex Hanson, playing her husband, another actor whose face seemed strangely familiar. From a recent *Dr Finlay*?

As for the sillier running stories — Erica currently fancies Andrew more than Andrew fancies Erica, and if The Beeches doctors bang on about fund-holding much more they risk being taken off the air until after the election. Last night, they had Dr Shearer (Adrian Lukis) to thank for maintaining political balance: "I'm never going to be a great fan of fund-holding [sharp intake of breath at Central Office], but I have to admit it does have some advantages." Phew.

If they gave out Bafta awards for most unexpected documentary, then **Witness: Tottenham Ayatollah** (Channel 4) would walk away with one. On paper it looked a disaster: Jewish journalist beards Islamic fundamentalist and rabid anti-Semite in his North London den. On television, it was one of the most watchable documentaries that Channel 4 has turned out for some time.

True, Jon Ronson had been somewhat economical with the truth — he didn't tell Omar Bakri Mohammed he was Jewish and he certainly didn't tell him what he intended to do with the film — but nor did Ronson ruthlessly exploit the access that his dishonesty won him. What he delivered was a sort of Islamic version of *Citizen Smith*, a film detailing the mundane logistics of planning a revolution — the trips to Office World for photocopying and to the cash-and-carry for collection jars. Omar chose large Coca-Cola bottles. "I thought you were against Western capitalism?" asked Ronson, whose narration was beautifully underwritten and very funny. "But I'm not against the packaging," replied the pragmatic Omar, who quickly had Ronson doubling as his chauffeur. In the back seat the fundamentalist sneezed. "Gesundheit," wished his straight-faced driver. Lovely.

BBC 1

6.00am Business Breakfast (62809)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70833712)
9.05 Election Call *As the general election approaches, leading politicians answer questions posed by the public, beginning with Labour MP Robin Cook* (9532083)
10.00 Style Challenge (47915)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (47557)
11.00 News (T) regional news and weather (4729847)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9262538)
11.35 Change That (6686712)
12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (4496915)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5048644)
12.35 Good Living presented by Jane Asher (9879915)
1.00 News (T) and weather (60354)
1.30 Regional News (50416199)
1.45 The Weather Show (39907606)
1.50 Neighbours (T) (22834354)
2.15 Quincy (r) (3949267)
3.00 Through the Keyhole (3489)
3.30 Playdays (r) (6184625) **3.50** Monster Cafe (r) (6245731) **4.05** The New Yogi Bear Show (9179847) **4.10** Gadget Boy (8274915) **4.35** Out of Tune (r) (7506915)
5.00 Newsround (T) (5257064) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (7435985)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (631793)
6.00 News (T) and weather (644)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (996)
7.00 How Do They Do That? A 60-year-old who has become one of the fastest men on ice; specially trained dogs for the deaf; the most daring *London's Burning* stunt to date (T) (8170)
7.30 Tomorrow's World Research into how aeroplane designs can be improved upon to protect them from strikes of lightning; skis with built-in suspension (T) (880)
8.00 The National Lottery Live (859129)
8.15 25 Years of the Two Ronnies Last in series (r) (T) (840267)
8.55 Points of View (527828)
9.00 News (T) and weather (418538)
9.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) Followed by National Lottery Update (460354)
10.00 They Think It's All Over In the first of a new series of the quiz, Nick Hancock is joined by regulars David Gower, Gary Lineker, Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. The guests are Alan Davies and Phil Tufnell (T) (94248)
10.30 Sportsnight introduced by Ray Stubbs. Includes Football: A preview of Sunday's FA Cup semi-finals at Highbury and Old Trafford, as Chelsea meet Wimbledon, and Middlesbrough take on second division Chesterfield; Greyhound Racing: Live coverage of the 1997 TV Trophy Final at Birmingham's Hall Green, Athletics: A look forward to Liz McColgan's attempt to repeat her winning run of 12 months ago in Sunday's London Marathon (19278)
11.30 Vigilante Cop (1991) Adventure with Terry O'Quinn and Dale Midkiff. Directed by Mel Damski (37847)
1.00am Weather (6623923)

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BBC 2

6.00am Open University: Miles of Aisles (2426625) **6.25** Artists in Logic: Computers in Wood (2438460) **6.50** Just Seventeen: The Geometry of Patterns (5370737) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (T) (8220538) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (4304793) ***7.55*** The Lowdown (T) (5806267) **8.20** Secret Life of Toys (r) (3398286) **8.35** The Raccoons (9024625) ***9.00*** *Cartoon (2177731)* ***9.10*** Enchanted Tales. Snow White (8842083) **10.00** Teletubbies (45557) **10.30** The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (1323354) **11.15** Alias Smith and Jones (r) (5473278) **12.00** The Flintstones (24489) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (44731) **1.00** Secret Life of Toys (r) (29693642) **1.15** A Passion for Angling (r) (2556712)
2.05 Going, Going, Gone (36404002) **2.35** The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (4128996) **3.00** News **3.05** Campaign Roadshow (T) (9920847) **3.55** News **4.00** Blockbusters (6811373) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (6814460) ***4.55*** Esther Surviving complete isolation (8313712) ***5.25*** Today's the Day (3333192) **5.55** Turning Points (r) (642080)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) *(409828)*
6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission Impossible (589489)



Zoologist Richard Dawkins (7.00pm)

7.00 Seven Wonders of the World Richard Dawkins selects his personal wonders (T) (6712)
7.30 Black Britain A black actor who killed himself (T) (422)
8.00 University Challenge *St Catherine's, Cambridge, v Exeter College, Oxford, for a place in the quarter-finals* (T) (5460)
8.30 Home Front *Home improvement show* (T) (1267)
9.00 Modern Times: Brainstorm *The stories of four businessmen whose stressful lifestyles led them to take drastic action to escape the rat-race* (T) (515915)
9.50 A Woman Called Smith Twenty-five-year-old Debbie's marriage (T) (450977)
10.00 Airport *Drama unfurls at Heathrow as Bill Clinton emerges from his plane surrounded by bodyguards* (r) (25118)
10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (641880)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (477002)
11.30 The Kingdom *(5/5)* (678064)
12.25am Weather (3329671)
12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone: Currents Weather in the oceans (14233) **1.00** Predicting climate changes (83887) **1.30** Sea Level fluctuations (17774) **2.00** ***Language Season:*** *Germany* and Italy (98856) **4.00 BBC Focus:** How accurate is history? (64213) **4.30 Unicef in the Classroom** (82590) **5.00 Basic Skills** (1/3) (62294) **5.30 Voluntary Matters** (35519)

ITV

6.00am GMTV (6710460)
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3653083)
9.55 Regional News (T) *and weather* (2771170)
10.00 The Time, the Place (32083)
10.30 This Morning (T) (61131731)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (4492199)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9865712)
12.55 Shortland Street (9873731)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (64242606)
1.50 Afternoon Live *including Remote Control Cooking with Andrew Nutter* (82234016)
2.20 Vanessa: I'm Dying *(T)* (80319511)
2.50 Afternoon Live including David Emanuel transforming viewers' images (5048002)
3.20 News (T) (7790002)
3.25 Regional News (T) and weather (7799373)
3.30 Tots TV (6236083) **3.40** Alphabet Castle (r) (9894538) **3.50** Sooty and Co (r) (6199557) **4.10** Animaniacs (T)(9145880) **4.20** Pinky and the Brain (T) (5379712) **4.40** Harry's Mad (r) (8311354)
5.10 Eruption! the Making of Dante's Peak (1622083)
5.40 ITN Evening News (T) (Followed by Regional News) (T) (814199)
6.00 Home and Away Marilyn has difficulties with Chloe in line at the salon (r) (T) (322996)
6.25 HTV Weather (661422)
6.30 HTV News (553064)
6.45 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (474118)
6.50 Emmerdale Seth waits to hear what Kim *has left him in her will* (682915)
7.20 Uefa Champions League Live: Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United *Bob Wilson introduces coverage of the first leg of the Champions League semi-final. Commentary by Brian Moore* (T) (99192915)



Bad news for Mavis Wilton (9.30pm)

9.30 Coronation Street Mavis receives terrible news (T) (28793)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (12644)
10.30 Regional News (T) (393731)
10.40 ***In Suspicious Circumstances*** *(r)* (451064)
11.40 Uefa Champions' League Semi-Final Highlights (885002)
12.45am Movie Club (38294)
1.15 Real Highway Patrol (35107)
1.45 ***In the Line of Duty: Mob Justice*** *(1991)* Crime thriller with Tony Danza and Ted Lavine. Directed by Peter Markle (6831126)
3.35 Not Fade Away (2865590)
4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (86316)
5.00 Coronation Street *(r)* (59720)
5.30 News (22045)

GRANADA

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9873731)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1622083)
6.25-6.45 Central News (419996)
12.45am Dating the Enemy (580836)
1.45 Funky Bunker (988300)
2.45 The Chart Show (4846652)
3.40 Comedy Central (2784671)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (2177354)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70849354)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1622083)
6.00-6.45 Westcountry Live (496354)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9873731)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1622083)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (430489)
6.20-6.45 Doing It Up (401977)
5.00am Freescreen (59720)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9873731)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1622083)
6.25-6.45 Anglia News (419996)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (88847)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (50977)
9.00 Bewitched (99793)
9.30 Sister Sister (8702489)
9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7223977)
10.20 The Crystal Maze (7520248)
11.20 Earthworm Jim (4790793)
11.45 The Pink Panther (6222996)
12.00 A Bit of Fiava (4489625)
12.05pm California Dreams (9574977)
12.30 Ricki Lake (46199)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (31398070)
1.15 Lisabeth (36348575)
1.30 Film: My Friend Flicka (53694793)
3.10 Pharmacist (6937903)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (170)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (977)
4.30 Mrs Cohen's Financial Diary *(489)*
5.00 5 Pump (6107809)
5.15 Ffeil (5269809)
5.30 Countdown (441)
6.00 Newyddion (307712)
6.05 Heno (333002)
6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (678712)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (854183)
7.25 Pfermio (185070)
8.00 Phwoar! (7828)
8.30 Newyddion (6335)
9.00 Spin City (8915)
9.30 Roseanne (26335)
10.00 Etholiad 97 (270828)
10.15 Brookside (215199)
10.50 ER (724422)
11.45 PPB (Conservative) (778828)
11.50 Plasticine People (519002)
12.05am Midnight Special (9554010)
1.35 Under the Moon (6586590)
2.30 NBA XXL (8365497)
3.35 Naked Sport (2687671)
4.35-5.25 Trans World Sport (9120671)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (88847) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (50977) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (99793) **9.30** Sister Sister (r) (8702489) **9.55** Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7223977) **10.20** The Crystal Maze (7520248) **11.20** Earthworm Jim (4790793) **11.45** The Pink Panther (6222996)
12.00 A Bit of Fiava (4489625) **12.05pm** California Dreams (r) (9574977) **12.30** Light Lunch (86170) **1.30** Tower of Mice (50409809)
1.45 The Clouded Yellow (1951, b/w) FILM starring Trevor Howard, Jean Simmons, Sonia Dresdel and Maxwell Reed. A thriller about a woman accused of *murder. Directed by Ralph Thomas* (53613828)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (170) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (977) **4.30** Countdown (T) (489) **5.00** Ricki Lake (1644) **5.30** Pet Rescue (r) (T) (441)
6.00 Party of Five Charlie's past catches up with him (T) (485248)
6.50 Fresh Pop (187170)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (410354)
7.50 Thatcher's Children Two first-time voters discuss the prominent issues in the general election (T) (573248)
8.00 Spot the Difference General election quiz show. Among the guests are *The Times* sketch writer Matthew Parris, Andrew Rawnsley and Petronella Wyatt (T) (7828)
8.30 Brookside David and Julia lend support to the stricken Max and Susannah (T) (7170)
9.00 Countryside Undercover: Flying Feathers The ornithologist David Braithwaite goes undercover to meet the people who are deliberately endangering Britain's birds of prey (T) (8915)
9.30 Downward Nobility A look at some of *Britain's heirs who have chosen not to live* the aristocratic life (r) (T) (26335)



Anthony Edwards as Greene (10pm)

10.00 *ER Greene's popularity takes a dive after* he sets up dates with two women on the same night (T) (7793)
11.00 Friends Rachael's passions for Ross are aroused by an old prom video and Joey gives Chandler a bracelet (r) (T) (3460)
11.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservatives (773373)
11.35 Roseanne Jackie and her sister Roseanne become closer when they discover they are both victims of infidelity (T) (797793)
12.05 am Midnight Special Discussion series (9554010)
1.35 Under the Moon Sports magazine with Danny Kelly (6586590)
2.30 NBA XXL (8365497)
3.35 Naked Sport (2687671)
4.35 Trans World Sport (9120671)
5.25 - 6.00 Backdate (7094497)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early with Scott Chisholm, Trish Adudu and Becky Anderson (7942880)
7.30 Havakazoo Pre-school educational series (2079538) **8.00** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2697267) **8.30** Wideworld. The third in the series examining where the power lies within the government of the United States (2696538)
9.00 Espresso Consumer magazine (5696489) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (6904538) **10.30** Fame and Fortune (r) (2609002)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (9836286) **11.50** Double Espresso (45493731) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful. Los Angeles-set soap (T) (2690354)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9574170)
1.00 5 News Update (92504606) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (6699880) **2.00** 5's Company. Guests, competitions, comedy and music (1873985)
3.30 The Day the Loving Stopped (1981) FILM starring Dominique Dunne, Valerie Harper and Dennis Weaver. A made-for-*television drama about a bride-to-be's* doubts about her marriage. Directed by Daniel Mann (4584809)
5.20 5's Company: Late Extra *(14464915)*
5.30 100 Per Cent. Game show without a host (1546373)
6.00 Whittle Quiz with audience participation (1543286)
6.30 Family Affairs Jamie takes a moral stand (T) (1534538)
7.00 Exclusive Showbiz magazine (14444422)
7.30 Serengeti Safari Documentary about a family of jackals living in the Masai Mara reserve in Kenya (T) (7731248)
7.55 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservatives (5002083)



Hawkins and Bradley (8.00pm)

8.00 The Great Garden Game Paul Hawkins and Clare Bradley present the gardening challenge from Tatton Park near Manchester (1453170)
8.30 5 News with Kirsty Young and Rob Butler (1449977)
9.00 Counterfeit Contessa (1994) starring FILM *Tea Leoni and David Beecroft. A romantic* comedy about a working class woman who dreams of being swept off her feet by a wealthy businessman. Directed by Ron Lagomarsino (43034625)
10.40 Bizarro Real life tales of the unusual (5764460)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy. The guest is Jane Birkin (9440921)
11.40 Tibs and Fibs Tony Slattery hosts the irreverent medical quiz (2741644)
12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine. Includes coverage of a top Major League baseball game (97023395)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6766045)
5.30 - 6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (5571126)

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (7166235) ***9.00*** Regis and Katrina Lee (25880) **10.00** Another World (17286) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (97422) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (70170) **1.00pm** Geraldo (96178) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (93118) **3.00** Jenny Jones (99544) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (75151) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (2915) ***6.00*** *Real TV (5977)* **6.30** Married — with Children (9567) **7.00** The Simpsons (3644) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8441) **8.00** Sightings. (28731) **9.00** Silk Stalkings (15267) **10.00** Murder One (18354) **11.00** Selina Scott (76880) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (80977) **12.30am** LAPD (55855) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (85037741)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (4774441) **7.30** Superboy (3434538) **8.00** Renegade (1806354) ***9.00*** *New York Undercover* (1826118) **10.00** Walker Rats (1896977) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (8311199) **12.00** Hit Mix (8399652)

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Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Skateboard Kid (1993) (9228644) **7.20 Nine Hours to Rama (1962)** (47249644) **9.25 The Lion (1962)** (34114118) **11.00 Kidco (1984)** (40286) **1.00pm The Patsy (1964)** (69422) **3.00 The Return of Tommy Tricker (1994)** (84793) **5.00 Scout's Honour (1980)** (47354) **7.00 Cops and Robbersons (1994)** (14199) **9.00 The Birds II: Land's End (1994)** (23286) **11.00 Innocent Lies (1995)** (20083) **12.30am Sexual Malice (1993)** (693942) **2.10 Angie (1994)** (5512?8) **4.00 Nine Hours to Rama (1962)** (70887)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

8.00am Daddy Long Legs (1955) (66018354) ***8.10 The Girl in the News*** **(1940)** (43579606) **10.00 The Mudlark (1950)** (60793) **12.00 The Day They Gave Babies Away (1957)** (65335) **2.00pm They Watch (1993)** (15408) **4.00 Jim's Gift (1994)** (5489) **6.00 Rolling Thunder (1994)** (40198) **7.30 El News Week in Review** (1151) **8.00 Outbreak (1995)** (40331606) **10.10 For a Few Dollars More (1966)** (51386606) **12.25am Dream Lover (1994)** (706855) **2.10 Love, Cheat and Steal (1994)** (118313) **3.50 Murder or Memory (1994)** (6100039) **5.20 Ivanhoe (1986)** (8775107)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The War Wagon (1967) (9503422) **8.00 Peggy Sue Got Married (1986)** (8615267) **10.00 Hell Camp (1986)** (4806809) **11.45 Best Seller (1987)** (2619248) **1.25am Radio Days (1987)** (33244403) **2.55 Wild in the Country (1961)** (7566229) **4.50 Frankenstein (1931)** (85620836)

TNT

9.00pm On the Town (1949) (69875538) **11.00 The Outfit (1974)** (14805906) **12.50am Passage to Marseille (1944)** (75191120) **2.45-5.00 On the Town (1949)** (88463565)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (47341) **7.30** Wrestling. Blast Off (34267) **8.30** Racing News (67731) **9.00** Sports Centre (68083) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (94373) ***10.00*** *The Footballers' Football Show* (55460) **11.00** Sports Unlimited (42996) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (78947) **12.30pm** Pool: World Masters (919?5) **1.30** Ringside Boxing (55052) **3.30** Hall of Fame — Salvatore Sanitlachi (4267) **4.00** The Footballers' Football Show (13335) **4.59** Sports Centre (***19151?1***) ***5.00*** Wrestling. Shotgun Challenge (7489) **6.00** Sports Centre (3151) **6.30** Grass Roots Rugby (7731) **7.00** Formula Three Racing (57267) **7.59** Sports Centre (789847) **8.00** World of Super League (607?1) **10.00** Sports Centre (46248) **10.30** Futbol Mundial (55996) **11.00** Formula Three Racing (63489) **12.00** Sports Centre (39836) **12.30am** World of Super League (62958) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (13126)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Beach Volleyball (***57729606***) ***1.00pm*** Golf Extra (12608267) **4.30** Iron Man (42595118) **5.00** Sports Unlimited (21419267) **6.00** Wakeski Tour (42576083) **6.30** Stuff Sailing (42567335) ***7.00*** *Sports Centre* (21410996) **7.30** Golf Extra (70581809) **11.00-11.30** Euro Tour Golf

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (51644) **8.00** Football (98335) **9.00** IndyCar (617?93) **10.30** Motorcycling (49335) **11.00** Rally Raid (17151) **11.30** Football (96625) **1.00pm** Basketball (31880) **1.30** Snowboarding (99808) **2.00** Cycling (2170) **2.30** Live Cycling (43712) **4.00** Tennis (53199) **5.30** Motors (58847) ***7.00*** *Trial (10844)* **8.30** Darts (33489) **9.30** Rally Raid (70793) **10.00** Cycling (41606) **11.00** Tennis (32460) **11.30-12.30am** Motorcycling (48557)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (15171?0) **7.35** Neighbours (5195847) **8.00** Crossroads (3193064) **8.25** EastEnders (65342?6) **9.00** The Bill (3317646) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (6307147) **10.00** Never the Twain (42698?0) **10.30** The Sullivans (9351538) **11.00** Casualty (88322809) **12.05pm** Crossroads (76877062) **12.30** Neighbours (27077?3) **1.00** EastEnders (6504085) **1.35** On the Up (3388482) **2.10** A Little Bit of Dawson (617489?) **2.20** Sonny (84105?7) **2.55** Allo, Allo (52830?2) **3.30** The Bill (22462?7) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (50007?3) **5.00** Generation Game (?0118286) ***6.05*** *EastEnders (4922606)* **6.40** Are You Being Served? (1657538) **7.20** Russ Abbot (4007267) **7.50** Bullseye (61294?1) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (8?60199) **9.00** *The Bill* (50069??) **9.30** Frank Stubbs Promotes (79629625) **10.35** Sports Anorak of the Year (5452606) **11.10** Hazell (3519083) **12.10am** The Best of Top of the Pops (5931590) **12.45** Rowland Rivron (94078?5) **1.15** Callan (57810?0) **2.15** Shopping at Night (?8377768)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (57461??) **6.30** The Return of the Antelope (?685606) **7.00** Classic Coronation Street (4125847) **7.30** Families (4104354) **8.00** Surprise Surprise (4946267) **9.00** The Professionals (5755847) **10.00** Krypton Factor (?402?86) **10.30** Doctor in the House (5862235) **11.00** Within These Walls (4113002) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (5686915) **12.30pm** Families (6629151) **1.00** Crown Court (4124118) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (6628422) **2.00** A Family at War (?5?0615) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3395?85) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise. (3374793) **5.00** The Professionals (5933441) **6.00** Families (8540471) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (6539693) **7.00** Surprise Surprise (?027?77) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (?2?6625) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (?3702??) **9.30** The Comedians (6649915) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (?2?6248)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Big Garage (9039644) **6.15** Muppet Babies (7887335) **6.40** The Care Bears (1317460) **7.05** *Runaway Mouse* (6507002) **7.55** The Little Mermaid (1401083) **8.20** Aladdin (1632985) **8.45** Quack Pack (8442118) **9.10** Brand Spanking New Doug (3796002) **9.35** Mighty Ducks (3206083) **10.00** Goof Troop (8519609) **10.25** Darkwing Duck (6513248) **10.50** Timon and Pumbaa (3423170) **11.15** Bonkers (409625) **11.45** The Little Mermaid (5325267) **12.10pm** Quack Attack (2254826) **12.40** Mouse Tracks (5064625) **1.10** Stick with Me Kid (1404422) **2.00 FILM: White Wolves II** (80915) **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa (1282828) **3.40** Brand Spanking New Doug (5442129) **4.05** Goof Troop (5885098) **4.30** Quack Pack (9503880) **4.55** Aladdin (9629915) **5.20** Flash Forward (4985567) **5.45** Timon and Pumbaa (9899??) **6.00** Mighty Ducks (3793) **6.30** Boy Meets World (7273) **7.00** Brotherly Love (1?80) **7.30 FILM: Ernest Rides Again** (2?028) **9.00-10.00** Touched by an Angel (99101

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (1839151) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7292847) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6395151) **7.30** Eagle Riders (8314286) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8733151) **8.30** Masked Rider (8732422) **9.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (8756002) **9.30** Power Rangers Zeo (7605606) **10.00** C Bear and Jamal (7283199) **10.30** Eek! Stravaganza (8752286) **11.00** Life with Loure (8392538) **11.30** Eek! Stravaganza (8393267) **12.00** Incredible Hulk (8743538) **12.30pm** Mortal Kombat (7809422) **1.00** Highlander (6394422) **1.30** Eagle Rider (7608793) **2.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (4770625) **2.30** Masked Rider (3446373) **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (4782460) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (3458118) **4.00** C Bear and Jamal (3437625) **4.30** Eek! Stravaganza (3433809) **5.00** Spiderman (4761977) **5.30** Goosebumps (3457489) **6.00-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3447002)

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (84083) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (48354) **8.00** Batman (66606) **8.30** Art Attack (16147) **9.00** Flash Gordon (94809) **9.30** Bobby's World (30199) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (35731) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (83793) **11.00** Danger Mouse (75199) **11.30** Gravedale High (76828) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (16183) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (34915) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (41880) **1.30** Black Beauty (33286) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (22?8) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (5538) **3.00** Art Attack (9625) **3.30** Flash Gordon (1593) **4.00** Batman (9118) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (8002)

Clint Eastwood in *For a Few Dollars More* (Movie Channel, 10.10)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (69248) **6.30** Count Duckula (14625) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (45083) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (64118) **8.00** Bruno the Kid (65002) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (65373) **9.00** Rugrats (56825) ***10.00*** *Aaahh! Real Monsters (52967)* **10.30** Doug (52809) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (30625) **11.30** Bailey Kipper's Point of View (21354) **12.00** Ivanan and Ivel (76489) **12.30pm** *The Secret World of Alex Mack* (96731) **1.00** Sister Sister (44354) **1.30** Moesha (95002) **2.00** Round the Twist (5644) **2.30** The Adventures of Pete and Pete (4444) **3.00** Stickin' Around (4151) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (2809) **4.00** Watch Your Own Wednesday (46441) **6.00** Press Gang (1793) **6.30-7.00** Doug (5373)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (5757408) **1.00pm** Madison (4129248) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (5852052) **2.00** Hangtime (3664606) **2.30** California Dreams (2269118) **3.00** Byker Grove (3676441) **3.30** Blast (2231335) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (2243170) **4.30** Hangtime (2249354) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (3688286) **5.30** California Dreams (2230606) **6.00** Byker Grove (2260847) **6.30** Madison (4129248) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (9531644)

BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (3677170) **9.00** The Burning Zone (9537826) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9530915) **11.00 FILM: The Fear** (8427606) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (4247720) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9312229) **3.00 FILM: Sweetie** (4897403) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (4593854)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (9460) **7.30** Roseanne (1557) **8.00** Roseanne (5680) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (4915) **9.00** Cheers (40488) **9.30** Cybill (83267) **10.00** Fraser (77118) **10.30** It's Garry Shandling's Show (53538) **11.00** Armstrong and Miller (12608) **11.30** Nightstand (*427?1*) **12.30am** *Camel Knowledge* (76107) **1.30** Cybill (69774) **2.00** Entertainment UK (98861) **2.30** Armstrong and Miller (11768) **3.00** Fraser (33861) **3.30-4.00** *Garry Shandling (95720)*

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Moksiver (7632460) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (76282867) ***9.00 FILM:*** **Damien — Omen II** (4123996) **11.00** The Invaders (6850809) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (3714045) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (*1898861*) **1.30** *Tales of the Unexpected* (3439107) **2.00-4.00 FILM: Damien — Omen II** (8446107)

HOME & LEISURE

8.00am The Joy of Painting (2283408) **9.30** Grow with Joe (81071?9) **10.00** Stars and Gardens (4267422) **10.30** Doing It Up (*8088660*) **11.00** *The Painted House* (5017083) **11.30** This Old House (5018712) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2384052) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (4507165) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (4125422) **1.30** Home Again with Bob Villa (5957606) **2.00** Hometime (3660880) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2232084) **3.00** Two's Country (3689915) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2244809)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Fishing Adventures (92556644) **4.30** Roadshow (2252828) **5.00** Terra X (3684460) **5.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2236880) **6.00** Untamed Africa (3857426) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (3671996) **7.30** Disaster (2253557) **8.00** Animal Crackers (9520538) **9.00** Unexplained (9533092) **10.00** Animal Crackers (9543489) **11.00** Warriors (4142199) **12.00** Classic Wheels (9442300) **1.00am** Disaster (1013403) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000 (1271326)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Ancient Mysteries (1612373) **5.00** Churchill and the Cabinet War Rooms (7622083) **6.00** Kennedy American Dream (3799688) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Christopher Colombus (4144489)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with Prize Time twice an hour
5.05pm Blockbusters (6187985) **5.50** Family Fortunes (540002) **6.30** Catchphrase (920712) **7.05** Sale of the Century (899538) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (581970) **8.20** All Clued Up (912248) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (784286) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (679915) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (144002) **11.20** Love at First Sight (926118) **12.00** Sale of the Century (41132) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (10519) **1.30** Mo



SIMON BARNES 42
Why Hickstead has moved from mainstream to backwater

SPORT

RACING 43
National winner given time off for good behaviour



WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 1997

Echoes of the past abound as United seek place in European Cup final

Ferguson fears German fall guys

ADY KERRY

FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN DORTMUND





Schmeichel's claim yesterday that the present United side would beat the 1968 European Cup winning team 10-0 was a distraction before the game in Dortmund tonight

THERE are two matches to go now, two matches between Manchester United and a date in Munich next month that would stir a thousand emotions. Alex Ferguson did the best he could yesterday to ground discussion of his team's preparations for the first leg of the European Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund in purely practical matters, but still the shadow of Busby, Best, Charlton and Law danced around his players.

With seven members of his squad teetering on the edge of suspension going into the match at the Westfalenstadion here tonight, Ferguson, as canny as ever, alluded several times to the German propensity for reacting theatrically to the most innocuous of tackles and said he was confident that the Russian referee, Nikolai Levnikov, would not be taken in by their antics.

He promised, too, that his players would not "tiptoe" through what is likely to be a full-blooded match against the German champions in front of a partisan crowd of more than 55,000 people to try to protect themselves from a second yellow card, as many had done in the second leg of the quarter-final against FC Porto. The contributions of Eric Cantona and Peter Schmeichel, two of what he called his "big-game players", would be crucial, he said.

By then, though, Schmeichel had already made his first contribution. In an innocent appraisal of the differences in pace and style between the way the game was played when United won the European Cup in 1968 and the fiercer, fitter way it is pursued today, the Denmark goalkeeper said the present team of Giggs, Beckham, Cantona *et al* would beat Busby's trophy-winning side 10-0.

"I am not demeaning anything United teams of the past have achieved," Schmeichel said. "But I am part of the greatest United team of all time. Since the 1960s, everything has changed in football. The pace of the game is so much faster now. You just have to look at the old videos to see the space they had then and all the time they had on the ball. That does not happen any more.

"In 1968, it was a different world, probably a better world, but things have moved on. I even remember watching the World Cup final of 1974 between West Germany and Holland and they walked with the ball in those days. We probably play at twice the speed they did then and that is why I am saying we would beat them 10-0. I am not saying the United team of 1968 was not a great team in their own time." Perhaps this was just Schmeichel's own way of trying to shake the monkey of United's past European glories off his back. His words were certainly spoken without an ounce of conceit and were more akin to scientific observations than the calculated insults that some will seek to turn them into. Ferguson, though, is sure to be less than amused by the commotion they will cause.

Tonight, after all, is the biggest night in his decade in charge at Old Trafford. These two matches against a Dortmund team packed with formidable German internationals represent the gateway to Munich and a night, were they to win in the final on May 28, that would complete the cathartic cycle that trailed from the air crash of 1958 and so elevate Ferguson to the Manchester United pantheon that Busby has occupied since his team beat Benfica at Wembley in 1968.

Ferguson, though, refused to let his mind wander yesterday. His thoughts were firmly focused on the match ahead, a match for which he has no injury worries after the recovery of David May. Typically, the United manager has left nothing to chance in his preparations: Dortmund, who are pursuing their third consecutive domestic title and are second in the Bundesliga despite some inconsistent recent results, have been watched five times by United representatives.

The only unknown, according to Ferguson, seemed to be the possibility that the Germans might trick the referee into unwarranted cautions of visiting players. "I think it is important that the referee is fair and does not fall for the European culture of falling down every time you are touched," he said. "There is a lot of that about but there is no way I will be telling my players not to tackle.

"Sometimes, in Germany and in other European countries, you see players going up to referees and motioning as if they are waving a card, trying to persuade them to book somebody. It would be a real blow to one of our young players if they missed the final because of a second yellow card. I have just told them to tackle and go for the ball and when you get to this stage of the competition you expect the referees to be 100 per cent."

Ferguson refused to single out any of the Dortmund players for special attention although he acknowledged the threat of Andreas Möller, who usually plays just behind Dortmund's two forwards. Matthias Sammer, the European footballer of the year, is suspended and the Dortmund coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, also has injury worries over Stephane Chapuisat and Jürgen Kohler.

Ferguson did say, though, that he expected Dortmund to man-mark Cantona. "I don't think Eric will be too worried about that," he said. "We need him and Schmeichel to be absolutely 100 per cent tomorrow. When you get to semi-finals like this, you need your big-game players to do it for you."

PROBABLE LINE-UPS

BORUSSIA DORTMUND	MANCHESTER UNITED
S Klos, W Feiersinger, J Kohler, M Kree, P Lambert, S Reuter, J Heinrich, A Möller, P Sousa, S Chapuisat (or H Herrlich), K Riedle	P Schmeichel, G Neville, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin, N Butt (or R Johnsen), D Beckham, R Keane, R Giggs, O G Solskjaer, E Cantona

Kick-off 7.30 pm (Live on ITV)

Faldo and Woods unlikely to be drawn together

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA

UNCERTAINTY surrounds the identity of the player with whom Nick Faldo, the defending champion, will be paired in the opening round of the US Masters here tomorrow. By rather loose tradition, the champion usually plays with the reigning US Amateur champion, whereas the Amateur champion from Britain partners a leading American. Last year, Gordon Sherry played with Fred Couples.

If tradition is followed this year, Faldo should play with Tiger Woods, the game's biggest draw, who won his third US Amateur title last summer. However, Woods then turned professional and the officials at the Augusta National club usually consider that, in those circumstances, the honour of playing with the defending champion should pass to the beaten finalist in the US Amateur.

If that practice is adhered to, then Faldo's partner will be Steve Scott, 19, a student at the University of Florida, who is making his first appearance in the event.

Woods finds focus 46

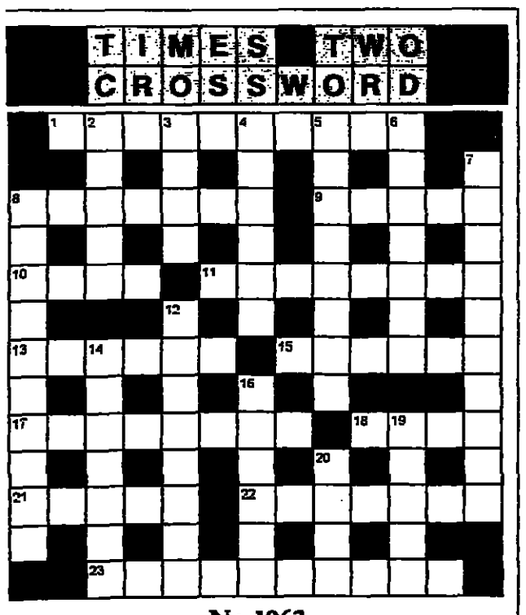
"Nick enjoyed playing with Tiger at Jacksonville," David Leadbetter, Faldo's coach, reported from Orlando last week. "He is assuming he is going to play with Tiger in the first round. It won't be a shock if he is. He is preparing himself for a lot of noise and distraction."

Faldo and Woods played a practice round together at the Masters in 1995. Their first, and so far only competitive 18 holes together, was on the fourth day of the Players Championship at Jacksonville last month.

On that occasion, Faldo handed Woods a lesson in course strategy over the first nine holes, moving four strokes ahead of the young American only to squander most of that lead coming home.

"Nick is a very intense individual on the golf course and it really shows," Woods said after the round. "He plays like that a lot — a lot of the great players do. I enjoyed playing with him."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1063

ACROSS
1 Result of jumping gun (5,5)
8 Maintenance for wife (once) (7)
9 Relinquish (5)
10 Flavour: Chinese dynasty (4)
11 Resonant; sorrowfully loud (8)
13 For example (4,2)
15 Place in pecking order (6)
17 Raise dissatisfaction (8)
18 Festival (4)
21 Not under breath (5)
22 Considered; idea (7)
23 Party-pooper (10)

DOWN
2 Line up (5)
3 Reduce speed (4)
4 Sea hazard, with Charybdis (6)
5 Likeness, attraction (for) (8)
6 Raging stream (7)
7 Game show player (10)
8 (Behaviour) hurting the general good (10)
12 Andrea —, It. classical architect (8)
14 Simple fare; a House (7)
16 Beam over door (6)
19 Portend: ancient priest (5)
20 Successful stroke (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1062

ACROSS: 1 Ridicule 5 Kant 9 Owner-occupier 10 Bevy 11 Tail-end 13 Rummer 15 Shadow 18 Confide 20 Roam 23 Time out of mind 24 Gulp 25 Trillion

DOWN: 1 Rook 2 Dense 3 Carlyle 4 Locate 6 Aniseed 7 Turn down 8 Fuji 12 Price tag 14 Minimal 16 Hurtful 17 Fester 19 Icon 21 Alibi 22 Eden

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1058
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Narcissi 5 Oslo 8 Glare 9 Lift off 11 Tim 12 Conundrum 13 Enlist 15 Inlets 18 Well-being 19 Tom 20 Dialect 21 Mural 22 Wash 23 One-sided

DOWN: 1 Nightie 2 Realm 3 Inexcusable 4 Silent 6 Scourge 7 Oxfam 10 Fun and games 14 Lallans 16 Sampled 17 Listen 18 Widow 19 Tired

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is J Davies, Stanhope St, Abergavenny.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is D Harvey, Heasham, Surrey.

All flights subject to availability.

MCC to vote on women members

BY IVO TENNANT

THE vexed issue of whether or not women should be allowed to join MCC, the most famous cricket club in the world, will be decided by its membership in the coming months. The likelihood is that the matter will be debated at the annual general meeting to be held in May 1998.

"This has got to be thoroughly aired and will be put before the full membership while Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie is still president," Chris Rea, the club spokesman, said yesterday.

"A working party under Charles Robins looked into the matter during the autumn and recommended to the committee that there should be further discussion."

The previous occasion on which an attempt was made to introduce female members was in 1991, when Rachael Heyhoe Flint, a former England women's captain, was backed by four influential members, including Sir Jack Hayward and the late Brian Johnston. But they failed to gain the requisite two-thirds majority.

Heyhoe Flint has made no secret of her continuing desire to be elected to the club and will doubtless attract further publicity. She has retained her profile within the game, not least because she was strongly opposed to the decision not to take wives and girlfriends on England's tour to Zimbabwe and New Zealand last winter.

Ingleby-Mackenzie will be sympathetic to her cause and, even if women are not admitted, there is a possibility that some prominent individuals will be elected in an honorary capacity. Those who wish to see MCC preserved as an all-male bastion need not altogether repine: women will have to go to the back of a long waiting-list.

Tough task for Scotland, page 45

And the winner is . . . the English FA

Russell Kempson on the outbreak of video wars over the 2006 World Cup

It did not premiere at Leicester Square and was not directed by Anthony Minghella; it does not have the catchiest title and will not win nine Oscars. Yet, when *World Cup 2006 Campaign — the Promotional Video* was released yesterday, the Football Association cooed enthusiastically about its latest weapon in the propaganda war with the German FA.

As the sun rose over Stonehenge, and the action switched from Bobby Moore lifting the Jules Rimet Trophy in 1966 to black-and-white footage from the British Pathé Library, Robert Powell, the narrator, eased his way through the smoothest of hard sells. "Football's birthplace is England," he enthused quietly, in a very British, almost Old Etonian, manner. "England is acknowledged as the home of football."

Euro 96 also features prominently in the slick, six-minute montage of why England, not Germany, should stage the 2006 World Cup finals. "Euro 96 was a triumphant confirmation that when you give English football a job to do, it does it well," Powell said. From the actor who once played Jesus Christ, it was difficult to argue.

Costing £15,000 to produce, and with a distribution list of 1,000, the video is to be sent to the movers and shakers of world football. With Uefa, the sport's European governing body, still siding with the German bid, it is hoped that the film — endorsed by Gary Lineker, television's ubiquitous Mr Nice Guy — will persuade the undecided that English is best.

Representatives of the English FA, including Keith Wiseman, the chairman, and Graham Kelly, the chief executive, will meet their German counterparts and Uefa officials in Nyon, near Geneva, next week. "No decision will be made then," a 2006 Campaign spokesman said yesterday. "It is just part of the consultative process." The video will not be shown, either.

David Wooster, its director, has crafted a moody masterpiece of multifarious imagery.



Pictures of Tower Bridge, Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace, serenaded by music from the Lightning Seeds and the Lighthouse Family, add a cultural feel. Powell also extols the virtues of Heathrow, recommending "the convenience of staging the event at the crossroads of global travel".

Not a trick is missed, with Wooster expertly integrating the most aesthetically pleasing highlights from the European Championship finals. Paul Gascoigne's spectacular goal against Scotland predictably rates inclusion but, sensibly, his guzzling exploits in the "Dentist's Chair", by way of celebration, have been left on the cutting-room floor.

The FA Carling Premiership is there, too, though the sight of Julian Dicks, the shaven-headed West Ham United warrior, in full battle-cry should not be shown to minors. Neither should the spectacle of Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest caretaker player-manager, whose facial expression suggests that his body has been invaded by a red-hot poker.

"We know we have a powerful case to make and we have a lot of friends around the world," Alec McGivan, director of the 2006 Campaign, said. Perhaps . . . but the tape will not be sent to the *Deutsche Fussball-Bund* in Frankfurt. It is the home of the German FA.

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